First Call for Children

"The essential needs of children should be given priority in bad times as well as good" — *Plan of Action, World Summit for Children*

Post-Summit progress

UNICEF 5729/McGURK

Just over two years ago at the World Summit for Children, leaders asserted in the Declaration and Plan of Action that progress for children must be a key goal of overall national development.

Now, the actions that speak louder than those promising words are taking shape in the national programmes of action (NPAs), finished or being prepared by 134 countries around the world. These ground-breaking blueprints have the potential for improving children's lives on an unprecedented scale, involving individuals, communities, non-governmental organizations and government agencies in a wide range of efforts.

First Call for Children introduces in this issue a regular section that will explain these initiatives and track their progress in keeping the Summit's promises.

- At the OAU International Conference on Assistance to African Children in Dakar, Senegal, from 25 to 27 November, participants can study a number of African countries' NPAs, which stress children's needs, set new national priorities, reorder budgets and encourage community-wide participation ... p. 1
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- Honduras is winning an uphill water struggle ... p. 1;
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First Call for Children

'The essential needs of children should be given priority in bad times as well as good' — *Plan of Action, World Summit for Children*

A UNICEF Quarterly/1992/No. 4 October-December 1992

Vaccine price rise jeopardizes UCI

By Ian Steele

A 23 per cent increase in vaccine prices has jeopardized sustainability of the benchmark 80 per cent universal child immunization (UCI) rate and created a new obstacle to achieving the expanded programme of immunization (EPI) goals for the 1990s.

Several major vaccine producers have advised UNICEF that they have increased their bid prices for vaccine supply contracts for 1992–1993.

They cite the need to expand production capacity to meet increased demand; the costs of research and development and the demand for new and improved vaccines for the Children's Vaccine Initiative; the need to meet changing specifications of the World Health Organization (WHO) for existing vaccines; the absence of an assured medium-term market; and the takeover of several vaccine manufacturers by large pharmaceutical companies, which generally expect high profit margins on their products.

The price rise, which took effect in January 1992, caused concern among representatives at the June meeting of the UNICEF Executive Board, who feared that children's needs were taking a back seat to multinational profits.

They urged the host countries of major vaccine manufacturers to consider means of subsidizing vaccine costs if necessary.

Meanwhile, efforts to persuade manufacturers to moderate their prices are continuing. UNICEF and WHO met with UNICEF suppliers in November 1991 and reported on the discussions to the Joint Committee on Health Policy in January 1992. UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant and WHO Director-General Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima followed up with manufacturers' representatives at meetings in March and in May, when they outlined, among other aspects, the potentially damaging impact of price increases on the global UCI campaign against the six main child-killer diseases.

Price rise critical

Much of the success of the UCI campaign so far has been due to low vaccine prices over the last five to six years, which, together with an expanding logistical capacity, have made it possible to provide vaccine coverage for about 100 million children.

Higher vaccine prices and an increase in the quantities needed, however, will raise the bill for UNICEF-supplied vaccines from US$44.3 million to possibly US$73 million.

Dr. Terrel Hill, UNICEF Senior Health Adviser, said that the cost of vaccines was already delaying polio eradication efforts in a number of countries. China, the Philippines and Viet Nam, for instance, are ready to clear up remaining pockets of polio but lack resources to buy the vaccines. China alone needs another US$21 million a year just for additional polio vaccine.

"Polio eradication will require a doubling of the amount of vaccine we are currently using. If resources are not available, eradication will be, if not impossible, pushed back significantly," Dr. Hill said.

The largest polio vaccine donor, Rotary International, has raised a total of US$308 million since it became involved in the effort in 1988. Yet Rotary's resources are not enough to meet the cost of vaccines to eradicate polio.

"We're committed to eradication

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WORLD SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

Africa conference to discuss ways to meet child goals

By Donald J. Casey

African States — which have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in greater numbers than countries on other continents — are taking another first step in fulfilling the commitments made at the World Summit for Children. From 25 to 27 November 1992 in Dakar, Senegal, the Organization of African Unity is convening the International Conference on Assistance to African Children.

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

The Conference will present an opportunity for governments to call attention both to the needs of Africa's children as well as the commitment to address them, through the national programmes of action (NPAs) countries are formulating (*please see table on p. 9 for details*).

CHILDREN AND WOMEN AND THE DEVELOPMENT CRISIS IN AFRICA	
CHILD MORTALITY	Highest in the world: 10 times the rate in the industrialized world; 12% of world's young children are in Africa, but 33% of the 40,000 children under five who die each year are African.
AIDS	The continent will have 5-10 million AIDS orphans by the year 2000, and 2 million children will die from the disease.
GROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT RATES	Decreased from 80% to 75% between 1980 and 1989.
CHILDREN IN ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES	As many as 10% of Africa's 65 million children may fall into this category.
WOMEN	Produce 70% of food on continent; have second highest mortality rate in the world: 626/100,000 live births.
MALNUTRITION	Affects 30% of young Africans, or 34 million children, at any one time.
FAMINE	Over 40 million people in eastern and southern Africa suffer from famine conditions.
WARFARE AND CIVIL CONFLICT	41 million people uprooted or 1 in every 15. Of these 15% are refugees; the rest are displaced within national borders.

Source: *Africa's Children, Africa's Future* (Organization of African Unity/UNICEF, 1992); *Africa Recovery*, August 1992

The Conference will also attempt to establish ways of raising the resources needed, from within Africa and from external sources, to attain the Summit goals for children by the year 2000, an amount estimated at US$12.7 billion (*please see table on p. 8*).

The gathering comes at a crucial time for Africa, the only continent in which the situation of children has deteriorated in recent years (*please see table at left*).

Economic recession, a heavy debt burden and the demands of structural adjustment programmes have siphoned resources from the very programmes that could help slow and eventually reverse Africa's decline. Civil wars and conflicts, disease and drought have made the situation even graver.

Internal economic reform and adjustments, some already under way in a number of African countries, coupled with sharply targeted external assistance, are believed to be what is needed to trigger economic growth on the continent.

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Winning an uphill water struggle

By Anthony P. Brand

Rosa Maria Velasquez takes a heavy pail of water from her head and sets it down with a thump on the table in her one-room home. She has bought the water from a truck stopped on the road a kilometre below where she lives.

This day was laundry day and in all Rosa Maria has carried three pails of water, each weighing 40 pounds, up the steep hill from the truck. Even then, the weight wasn't the worst part.

"It's expensive," she says, "and probably contaminated, too."

Rosa Maria, who lives in one of the squatter areas of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, is among the nearly 200,000 people in the city who must struggle every day to buy and haul water for all their needs because they have no access to safe water or other public services.

Her neighbourhood, or barrio *marginal*, however, is on the verge of a change. Rosa Maria and her neighbours will soon have safe water within easy reach.

"The tap won't be even 10 metres from my door," she exclaims proudly.

An uphill struggle

In Tegucigalpa, property laws and poverty leave those arriving from the countryside only the steep, dangerous hillsides on which to settle.

Traditional solutions to the problems of these urban squatters, provided by politics, laws and engineering, have proven inadequate — there is no public water system serving their high settlements. As a result, residents not connected to the city's piped water system must pay private water vendors more than 10 times the 'official' price of water, for an unsafe and insufficient supply. The cost is felt in other ways as well. City health authorities say that diarrhoea and dysentery caused by unsafe water are responsible for at least a third of all the infant and child deaths in the capital.

To help solve the barrios' water problems, in 1987 the Honduran National Water and Sewage Service, with UNICEF support, created the Unit for Marginal Barrios (UEBM). At the time, barrio residents not connected to the city water system were paying uncontrolled private vendors around US$7 million annually for their water. UEBM set out to try to channel some of these tremendous expenditures into innovative ways to deliver safe water.

UNICEF/SPRAGUE/1940

Diarrhoea and dysentery caused by unsafe water are responsible for an estimated one third of all infant and child deaths in Tegucigalpa.

UEBM came up with some interesting alternative technologies — independent wells, communal tanks and its own fleet of water trucks to sell water to residents.

Even more interesting and important than the technologies UEBM introduced, however, were the changes it made in the traditional approach of government and community organizations to prob-

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Rise in vaccine prices jeopardizes UCI

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and we'll be working with others to raise the additional funds," said Ted Trainer of Rotary.

HARFORD

UNICEF procured 4,408 million doses of vaccine between 1982 and 1990. Annual vaccine purchases rose from 125 million doses in 1982 to 885 million in 1991.

An appeal to producers

Vaccine producers are being reminded that they have no marketing costs in developing countries since UNICEF, WHO and other partners have assumed that role. Also, research and development costs for EPI vaccines, developed in the 1950s and 1960s, were recouped many years ago, all good reasons why producers could hold the line on prices.

Another argument for low prices is the fact that UNICEF buys large quantities of vaccines. And EPI offers a long-term outlet for the introduction of new and improved vaccines to an expanding global market.

Manufacturers are also reminded that pressure for better vaccine coverage has been brought to bear in some industrialized countries where immunization coverage has slipped, thus generating greater demand for vaccines and, therefore, higher returns for producers.

Tackling the cost challenge

About 57 per cent of the vaccines provided to EPI are produced and paid for by developing countries; 13 developing countries with 67 per cent of the world's children have some vaccine-manufacturing capacity. They are not able to produce a full range of vaccines, however, and most countries prefer supplies from Western Europe, where they know quality assurance mechanisms are stronger.

A Children's Vaccine Initiative Task Force is therefore focusing on quality control to **build local capacity** in selected countries with a large population base, encouraging governments to assume financial responsibility for their immunization programmes. India, Iran and Pakistan are among the countries keen to become vaccine exporters, and Iran and Pakistan reached an agreement recently to swap surplus capacity *(please see story below)*.

UNICEF is also investigating the possibility of expanding the support for packaging bulk vaccines in developing countries.

"India and Indonesia get polio vaccine in bulk and finish it," said Dr. Hill. "We might do that with other vaccines as well. We have also thought of buying vaccines from manufacturers and having a bottler put them in vials, creating a kind of generic product. But there are a lot of details to be worked out." Among them are questions about responsibility for quality control and for liability once the product leaves the manufacturers' control.

UNICEF is also working with developing countries to improve strategic **supply forecasting**. "If countries could identify the volume they need more precisely," said Dr Hill, "we would have a cost advantage by offering long-term contracts to manufacturers. At present, they bid every two years."

Creative financing

Through a Vaccine Independence Initiative launched in 1991, UNICEF is strengthening the capacity of countries to assume more responsibility for the funding and procurement of vaccines, either with local or hard currencies. It is hoped that many countries which currently receive donated vaccines from UNICEF will begin to budget national resources for basic EPI vaccines.

UNICEF is working with WHO and other partners to find additional resources for two areas. The first is to meet added demand for measles and poliomyelitis vaccines and achieve goals set for the 1990s. The second is to help introduce new and improved vaccines developed by the Children's Vaccine Initiative.

Ian Steele is a consultant writer and editor for UNICEF New York.

Pakistan and Iran negotiate vaccine barter

Pakistan is reaching for 85 per cent coverage against the six main child-killer diseases by 1995, but has been advised that US Agency for International Development funds for syringes and cold chain equipment will dry up in September of next year.

"If we have to spend more money for vaccines plus syringes and cold chain equipment, then the programme is going to suffer," said Dr. S. Mohsin Ali, Pakistan's Director General of Health. "The best way for us to economize and still achieve our goals is to produce more vaccines domestically."

The National Institute of Health — the sole national vaccine producer — has been given the target of self-sufficiency in EPI vaccines by the year 2000. Despite severe financial restraints on the Institute's goals, Dr. Mohsin remains optimistic because of the vaccine barter arrangements with Iran, in which Pakistan's excess capacity in measles and tetanus toxoid vaccines would be traded for surplus DPT (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) and polio vaccines produced by Iran.

CHILE'S 'LET THE CHILDREN LIVE' CAMPAIGN

Hearing the voices of children

By Jorge Fernandez

They asked the children if they would like to speak. A small, thin boy around 10 years old was the first to come up to the microphone. With a soft voice, but sure of himself, he asked, "What can we do so that they don't hit us?"

The boy was one of many children whom national authorities, who had travelled to Coyhaique — a city 1,500 km south of Santiago, the capital of Chile — heard during the 'Let the Children Live' meeting held there.

And that meeting in Coyhaique was only one of hundreds of events — all part of the 'Let the Children Live' campaign carried out during the last quarter of 1991 in Chile. From the Atacama desert on the northern border of the country, to the southernmost city in the world, children were the protagonists, participating in sports competitions, painting, singing and acting in plays about their rights.

Mobilization and information

The process mobilized the whole population, especially in the provinces.

Information about children was spread by many channels: institutions and non-governmental organizations exhibited panels and audiovisual displays on the situation of children and development activities; debates were held; and both the print and broadcast media covered the event. For over two months the national television station broadcast a spot on the campaign. And radio stations throughout the country, particularly Catholic stations, broadcast jingles.

In all, 200,000 posters with six different slogans festooned the streets of towns and cities throughout Chile; 15,000 pins and 5,000 T-shirts bearing campaign slogans were distributed to children; and 20,000 brochures on the Convention on the Rights of the Child were distributed. In each region, private enterprises provided economic support for the local events.

The voices of children

A contest entitled 'Give Life to Your Rights' enabled children to express their opinions through drawings, sketches, sports events and musical groups.

Children also participated in a referendum on their rights, selecting those they considered most important. They chose the right to live and grow with their families and friends, healthy, well-fed and happy; the right to be considered equal to all other children until the age of 18, regardless of race, social group or nationality; and the right to be protected from drugs, sexual abuse and all forms of violence.

At the campaign's culmination in Santiago, UNICEF launched two publications:

Chile en Familia: un analisis sociodemografico (The Family in Chile: A Socio-demographic Analysis) and *Los 30 Secretos* (30 Secrets), in which the Chilean Human Rights Commission describes human rights in simple language for children.

During a ceremony in Santiago, the President of the Republic, Patricio Aylwin, with official dignitaries and thousands of children and adolescents looking on, reiterated the promise that the World Summit for Children commitment would be met by Chile. He affirmed for the first time that children were a priority for his Government.

And the children themselves wrote simple and direct messages to the President, covering scrolls of paper hundreds of metres long.

What they said

"Mr. President, please help the poor so they don't die." —Katherina Andrade.

"Please may there be peace in the country. All children have a right to everything." —Maria Paz

"I would like all children over age 10 to vote 'cause we have rights, too." —Margarita

"Please may all children be treated with love and our rights respected just as we respect our grown-ups." —Valeska

"May laws be written to protect children." —Astudillo

"We children want clean air." —Mariana Munoz

"My dad needs a decent and stable job." —Enzo Roman

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to get to know our rights." —Roxana Figueroa

Jorge Fernandez is the UNICEF Communication/Information Officer in Santiago, Chile.

Water struggle

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lem solving. UEBM and UNICEF have brought water to more than 50,000 people in over two dozen barrios by empowering and supporting grass-roots barrio organizations in their efforts to manage their own water services.

Self-managed and solvent

A cornerstone of the strategy to empower each barrio is the community water board, elected by residents. The board manages and maintains the water system and bills the users.

The management role, a new one for most water board members, is a crucial dynamic, according to Bernt Aasen, the head of Basic Urban Services for UNICEF in Honduras. "It's essential that decisions made by the community, even the wrong ones, not be overruled by the overseeing agencies. Empowerment of community organizations can only take place in an environment where they try, fail, make mistakes and correct their errors themselves."

Another important element is that of cost recovery, particularly since government funds for public services are always limited. UEBM and UNICEF provide loans to community water boards to buy pipes and other materials for their water systems.

In turn, as a water board repays its loan, money is freed for neighbouring communities to borrow for their own systems.

Maria del Transito Cuellar, an elected leader in her barrio, recognizes that "for this system to be ours, we must pay for it. Once we do, then that money will circulate in other barrios like a rotating fund and more people can have water."

UEBM has adopted some novel methods for motivating barrio residents to participate in their system and support their elected water boards. Jean Gough, UEBM Director, is a firm believer in the power of community motivation. She points to the parades, art contests, community theatre and special activities that UEBM organizes with schools and families as important elements in people's decision to take charge of building and paying for their own system.

Success and savings

Whatever new challenges the water boards have faced, their success is clearly felt in each barrio. Water is now close, clean and less expensive.

For communities, the savings can usher in a new phase of social development. For instance, some of the first barrios to participate have reached financial independence in water service. Noemi Fonseca, the secretary of her barrio's water board, speaks proudly of the US$35,000 the community has accumulated in their bank account after three years of operation.

They are ready to repay their construction loan to UEBM and they have contracted engineers to design a sewage system. "We even bought a pump for our third well," Noemi Fonseca adds. Other neighbourhoods have been just as successful at managing their water systems and investing their profits in social work and infrastructure for their own barrios.

At the individual level, a new system can save some families up to 80 per cent of their water costs, which for many means they no longer have to choose between paying for water and doing without clothing, schooling or even food. Some, like Maria del Transito, have plans.

She and 2 of her 11 children have just finished digging the three metres of trench her family was assigned for the water system. Leaning on her shovel during a work break, she relates how she plans to improve her house. She will "maybe even pour a cement floor" with the money she will save on water, she says.

Anthony P. Brand is a freelance journalist who writes for the UNICEF Honduras Office.

CHANGING MYTHS, CHANGING MINDS

With Meena: A star is born

Change can come in all sizes and shapes, as this animated series starring a spunky little girl from South Asia hopes to prove.

By Rachel Carnegie

"Please can I go to school?" Meena asks her parents appealingly.

"Girls don't need to go to school," her father replies.

For most girls in South Asia — and many other parts of the world — that would be the end of the story.

But in this case, it is the beginning of the story, an animated film starring a lively and determined little girl. In the first ground-breaking episode, Meena, who is determined to learn, sends her pet parrot off to school when she cannot go.

Then, using the knowledge her parrot brings home, Meena manages to help her village catch a thief who has been stealing chickens. Thus Meena earns the gratitude of her neighbours, and her resourcefulness convinces her parents that, like her brother, she too should go to school.

How the regional Meena grew

The animated series and set of communication materials are being developed by the South Asian countries and UNICEF, with support from Hanna-Barbera Productions. The Norwegian Government contributed substantially through the Global Communications Fund.

The goal is to depict this likeable little girl, who has an infectious zest for life and a vision of what her future can hold, fulfilling her potential. While the underlying messages are serious, the stories planned will be full of fun, fantasy and excitement.

The series grew out of a proposal put forward at the UNICEF workshop on Animated Film for Development, held in Prague in March 1990.

Research to identify the messages to be communicated revealed marked similarities in the situation of girls, especially in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and the northern belt of India.

A team of communications officers, artists, animators, women's development officers and media specialists from these countries collaborated to evolve the regional design for Meena. Other countries in the region, such as Sri Lanka, have expressed interest in integrating the materials into their programme activities.

UNICEF

Meena is off to school in this poster, one of the communications materials being readied.

Collaboration and ownership

The four participating countries were closely involved in the development and refinement of the story line and script. Once the script for the pilot episode on education and the girl child was finalized, artists from each country then produced designs for Meena, her family and her village.

From the designs, Ram Mohan, a leading animator in India, created a cast of characters, emphasizing the common elements of the different cultures and minimizing the discrepancies.

To the surprise of many, the very positive pre-testing results from the various countries indicated that the design was successful in communicating to people across the region.

The pilot episode was produced by Hanna-Barbera in their Fil-Cartoons studio in Manila, Philippines. Four artists — from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan — went to Manila to learn all the stages of animation production by making their own two-minute film, all part of the project's additional aim to develop animation skills in South Asia.

Getting the story out

Market research conducted in Bangladesh indicates that the film can be distributed through cinema chains, television networks, commercial video companies, government mobile cinema units and NGO networks. Similar opportunities exist in the region's other countries, each of which will have its own language version of the film and support materials.

However, before the pilot episode is widely released and a decision made on whether to continue the series, extensive research will be done in the four participating countries to determine the educational value of the initial communication package — video, comic book and poster — in various settings. The researchers will also try to determine whether in this region a cartoon could successfully transmit a serious message to both parents and children.

The series has the potential to inspire girls and their families across the region. The potential for product development and sales will also be explored.

Rachel Carnegie is a consultant in UNICEF Bangladesh, which has been coordinating the Meena project in the region.

The girl child's silent sighs...

By Nasrin Yasmin

A watershed in the social history of the land: the United Nations has given her a name, and has promised to give her an opportunity to be cherished.

Within the common framework of poverty, the birth of her brother brings a ray of hope and confidence for the future, while hers elicits dismay and anxiety, disgrace and humiliation.

Holy water is sprinkled and taken in prescribed doses, a holy talisman is worn, promises made to offer sacrifice — all to prevent her birth.

Nobody prefers her, yet she enters the world, susceptible and unassured.

She is the girl child and her story on is subcontinent is unique, felt through her silent sighs that have stopped time in this land.

The birth of a calf or a chicken would have been heralded with more excitement than Rokeya's. The third girl born to her family, her birth lowered her mother's position to the dust and shattered her future.

Her mother had tried everything in her power to give birth to a boy — spent her secret savings, drunk holy water, worn the talisman — yet Rokeya came along.

Because of Rokeya's birth, her father's marriage to a second wife was condoned by society. After all, a man cannot be expected to spend his life with a wife who only gives birth to girls, especially in a land where the conventional blessing for a young bride is "May you be the mother of a hundred sons, and remain the loved one of your proud husband."

It is lunch-time for this family of eight. The father is still working in the fields. The mother serves lunch to her four young children and her mother-in-law. She and her teenage daughter will eat later. The menu is rice and egg curry, a treat for this family. Two eggs, cut in halves, are served with vegetables and green chilies. Half an egg is set aside for the father. The two sons each get half an egg. The remaining half an egg is shared among the two little girls and the mother-in-law, as women earn a higher position among themselves once their sons start earning.

The mother has put aside some vegetables and chilies for herself and her eldest daughter, who is around 14. The youngest girl, around five years old, finishes her share quickly and glances hungrily at her grandmother's plate. Her grandmother smiles indulgently and gives her a bit from her portion; but she also remarks to the girl's mother, "A girl child should learn to restrain her appetite. Nobody can assure her future."

Lower middle class families in the urban areas often have little girls as housemaids. Ambia, 11 years old, has to work very hard as the single helping hand in her employer's family. She lives far away from her parents and is only allowed to visit them twice a year.

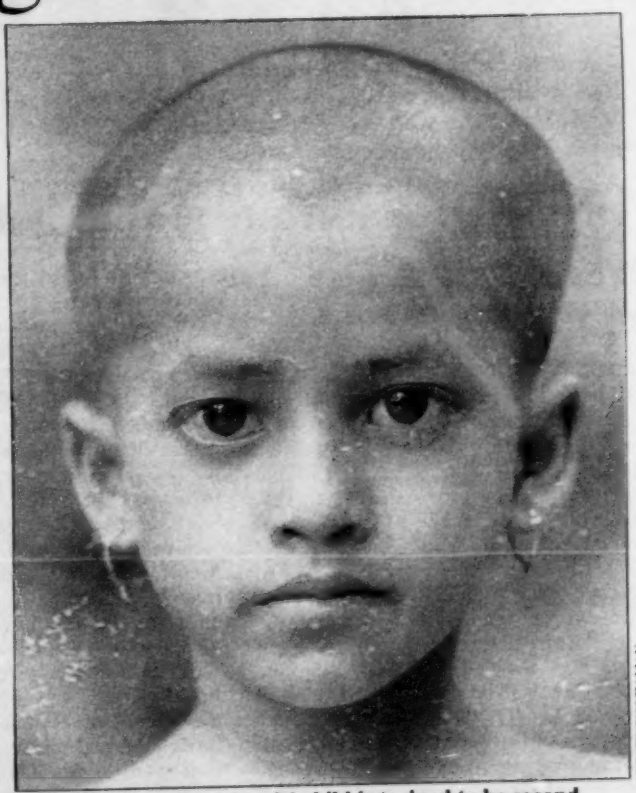
Asked what she dislikes most, Ambia says, "I hate the employer's son. Whenever he gets the chance he forces me to the privy."

Asked whether she feels homesick and wants to return to her mother, she says, "I do. But I can't as we are very poor. My father counts on my salary." Her voice sinks. But again it echoes hope. "You know my brother, Dulal, goes to school. After a while when he gets a job I won't have to work here anymore."

The girl child, stripped of her right to be loved, from the moment of her birth, must adjust herself to the indifference of the adult world. From the beginning she is trained to be second class, always to comply, never deny.

The key word is restraint. She restrains herself from everything, even the simple joys of life — like laughter and sports. She is discouraged from laughing loudly, especially in public, and told to avoid athletics.

She restrains and controls her biological needs. As most houses do not have proper sanitation facilities, women rise before dawn, taking advantage of the darkness, before the men are awake. The girl child is trained thus from puberty.



UNICEF/2869/ZAMAN

From the beginning, the girl child is trained to be second class.

She is seldom wanted, never preferred. Only in relatively wealthy families is she welcome, after her brothers are born, as icing on the cake.

Why? Because she is a lifelong burden, her only identity through marriage, where her place is at her husband's feet, not in his heart. "Please make a little room for me at your feet" is the traditional love message for a woman.

And the gateway to that land of marriage is dowry, irrespective of class. So the girl child is systematically trained to be ashamed of herself, to realize how unworthy she is.

Attitude leaves a deep scar on her soul, which she can hide but never erase. Her silent sighs and dry tears make time stand still in this land.

The Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children pledged nations to provide improved protection to children in especially difficult circumstances and tackle the root causes leading to such situations.

Who is in a more difficult circumstance than the girl child?

Nasrin Yasmin is a health and nutrition project assistant in UNICEF Bangladesh.

Children find place in plan of action

By Yin Yin Nwe

As President Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil brought down his gavel at 10:55 a.m. in the mammoth conference centre Rio Centro, site of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) on June 14, a colleague next to me jotted in a note that the 21st century had just begun.

With the fall of the gavel, the delegations of 178 countries adopted three documents: Agenda 21, the main operational document of UNCED — a 40-chapter programme of action; the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, a statement containing 27 principles on environment and development; and the Statement of Principles on Forests.

Two independently negotiated conventions were also signed during UNCED: the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. By the end of UNCED a total of 153 countries had signed each of the two conventions.

Issues unresolved

It had taken two and a half years of contentious negotiations, including four Preparatory Committee meetings, to arrive at these final documents.

Between 3 and 14 June in Rio de Janeiro, negotiations continued on issues that had not been resolved during the preparatory meetings. The sessions were often marathon: the final one began on June 10 and continued all night until 6 a.m. on 11 June.

Despite this, three issues — finance, forests and atmosphere — could not be resolved and had to be deferred to ministerial-level negotiations in the final three days.

And finance, the most crucial and controversial topic, ultimately went unresolved, a great disappointment to many. It was estimated that some US$600 billion would be needed to implement Agenda 21, much of it coming from developing countries themselves. At issue was US$125 billion that was to come on grant and concessional terms from external sources. No specific pledges were made by industrialized countries to raise this amount.

Other contentious issues at UNCED included consumption patterns, biotechnology and biodiversity, and military expenditure. Sadly, it was not possible in the final documents to make any reference to environmental degradation caused through military expenditure.

Agenda 21 and children

Children figured prominently in speeches and events at UNCED. But more importantly, children's concerns were significantly addressed by Agenda 21, which cites the World Summit for Children and explicitly builds on the Summit goals for children. It supports the Convention on the Rights of the Child and integrates many of the strategies and programming approaches already used by UNICEF. Much of this focus on children was made possible through the work done at three meetings prior to UNCED: the Women and Children First Symposium in May 1991 in Geneva; the Third Preparatory Committee meeting in August-September 1991 in Geneva; and the Fourth Preparatory Committee meeting in New York in March-April 1992.

Agenda 21 contains a separate programme area for children, entitled 'Children in sustainable development'. Because of this, the survival, protection and development of children are now among the objectives of Agenda 21, in accordance with the goals endorsed by the 1990 World Summit for Children.

Agenda 21 also endorses such other activities as primary environmental care, the mobilization of communities through children, the need for overriding attention to girls' education and the incorporation of children's concerns into all relevant policies and strategies for environment and development.

Other chapters and programme areas of Agenda 21 which endorse and complement the goals and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children are those on health, women, youth, freshwater, education, poverty and population.

The chapter on health, for example, endorses and reinforces Summit goals: "Specific major goals for child survival, development and protection were agreed upon at the World Summit for Children and remain valid also for Agenda 21. Supporting and sectoral goals cover women's health and education, nutrition, child health, water and sanitation, basic education and children in difficult circumstances."

The Rio Declaration

The Rio Declaration does not mention children specifically, but has a strong focus on human development, and refers to future generations and to youth. It also strengthens the political commitment to major UNICEF priorities, such as women and human development.

Ideally, the Declaration would have referred to children along with youth. But because this highly politicized document mentioned only those seen as actively contributing to sustainable development, the fact that children are perceived as victims of environmental degradation precluded their mention.

To the last, there were fears that the whole Rio Declaration — a very delicately balanced package of compromises and the focus of much acrimonious debate in the Preparatory Committees, or PrepComs, as they were called — would again be opened up for negotiation. As Ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore, who chaired the main committee, put it, tampering with any of the intensely negotiated texts might have caused the whole to unravel.

Changing words to actions

As many say, the Earth Summit was the start rather than the culmination of a process.

As UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong made his closing statement at the conclusion of UNCED, he quoted one of the children who had spoken to the delegates on 11 June. Her words left those who listened visibly moved, some with tears in their eyes: "You grown-ups say you love us; I challenge you, please, make your actions reflect your words."

Yin Yin Nwe is a Project Officer working on the environment in the Programme Division, UNICEF New York.

(For a fuller description of what was accomplished at UNCED, please see the booklet *Children and Agenda 21*, produced by UNICEF Division of Information.)

UNICEF/GOZ/THOMAS

Agenda 21 endorses primary environmental care.

UNCED: A unique global gathering

By Anwarul Chowdhury

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the most important global gathering of the century, was unique in a number of ways. First there was the enormity and complexity of the issues it dealt with. The only global conference that comes close in this respect was the lengthy UN Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Also remarkable was the level of participation, with 103 heads of State or Government attending.

The Conference attracted the largest and most involved participation by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of any so far — 1,500 NGOs attended from all parts of the world. Particularly noteworthy was the committed involvement of many young people and women's groups as well as community-based organizations.

The NGOs' gathering in Rio, called the Global Forum, adopted its own 'Treaties', accusing governmental delegations of not living up to the expectations of the world community. NGOs in Rio pledged themselves to continue their 'environmental crusade' in their countries through the treaties.

Shortcomings and high points

UNCED fell short in some crucial areas — there was no major financial commitment by nations for implementation of Agenda 21, the Earth Summit's plan of action. Nor was a strong recommendation made for the diversion of military expenditure to environment and development areas.

Many were also disappointed that agreement could not be reached on the much-heralded Earth Charter, which had to be watered down as the Rio Declaration. Certainly the expectations generated during the preparatory process for wider and in-depth interaction between government delegations and NGOs were left unrealized.

Yet as UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong said when he summarized the outcome of the Conference, "Rio was the high point of the environmental movement, not an end point."

The global environment was first highlighted 20 years ago at the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm and received renewed attention when it was linked with development in the Brundtland Commission's report, *Our Common Future*. In Rio, the much-needed global awareness and understanding of the underdevelopment of the South, maldevelopment of the North and of the need for new patterns of living and consumption emerged.

Above all, Rio has given the world a new vision to enter the next millennium with some measure of confidence. Children, young people and women can play very crucial roles in shaping the new vision and spirit of Rio. We all look forward to that!

Anwarul Chowdhury, UNICEF Director for Japan, Australia and New Zealand, attended UNCED.

Out of the mouths of babes

By John Usher

People talked a lot at the Rio environment conference, more than 200 speeches in the plenary sessions alone. The 40-chapter, 500-page action plan — known as Agenda 21 — was just one hefty chunk of an avalanche of documents through which delegates ploughed. But it took the remarks of a 12-year-old to stir the emotions.

Speaking for the future

"Future generations cannot speak here, so I am speaking for them," said Severn Suzuki, a Japanese-Canadian, in a brief speech at the Rio Centro conference hall that prompted a standing ovation from delegates jaded by two weeks of oratory and hours of troublesome backroom negotiations.

Severn and a small group of Canadian children raised money to go to Rio and personally make known their concerns about worldwide pollution and environmental degradation.

"The cries of starving children around the world are not heard, so I am speaking for them," she told the packed hall. "The nameless animals who are dying across this planet, I am speaking for them, too. And we can't afford not to be heard."

Another young Canadian, Vanessa Sutie, who addressed the Earth Parliament, complained that environmental issues had become a political football. "It's important for me to ask that politicians are not going to throw my future out of the window," she said. "Coming here today, I have nothing to lose except my future."

The arrival in Rio of the Viking ship *Gaia* on the eve of the Earth Summit, following a year-long voyage from Norway, signalled that the voices of other children would be heard on issues from industrial pollution to child abuse.

The vessel sailed into Rio harbour flying a banner with the words, "Keep the promise ... for a better world for all children" — a reference to the declaration made by world leaders at the 1990 World Summit for Children.

Messages of concern

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, UNCED Secretary-General Maurice Strong and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Roger Moore joined other dignitaries in greeting the *Gaia's* crew, who carried ashore sacks of messages of concern from children worldwide.

Next day, from the opening gavel of the largest environment meeting in history, world leaders raised children's issues and concerns in their speeches, some of which were couched in the most eloquent language heard at the conference.

Maurice Strong appealed for "the views, concerns and the interests of our youth and children" to be respected.

"The road beyond Rio will be a long and difficult one," he said, "but it will also be a journey of renewed hope, of excitement, challenge and opportunity, leading ... to the dawning of a new world in which the hopes and aspirations of all the world's children for a more secure and hospitable future will be fulfilled."

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said, "the spirit of Rio must lead us to think constantly of the future, our children's future. What we do here, we do for our grandchildren and, beyond, for future generations."

Mrs. Brundtland warned that the world had reached a point "where fundamental changes become unavoidable."

"The more than one billion people who cannot meet their own basic needs, our own children and our grandchildren, and the earth itself all cry out for a revolution," she said. "We have an opportunity to head off the danger, disorder and conflict which might otherwise be inevitable."

John Usher is Chief, Media and Emergencies Section, UNICEF New York.

Bhutan's new approach to primary education

Education is in demand in Bhutan and the country has responded with a new curriculum and new schools.

By Peter Chen

In a simply equipped pre-primary classroom in Bhutan, children sit around tables, facing each other and talking animatedly. Before them are small piles of sticks and stones, which they count and divide and rearrange.

The children are learning mathematical skills in a new way, through hands-on practice, active participation and collaboration, rather than by rote memorization. Similarly, they learn science and social studies by exploring the world outside their classroom. The approach, referred to more and more by its acronym NAPE (new approaches to primary education), is radically different from Bhutan's 'traditional' teaching strategies. Since NAPE was first introduced in 12 schools in 1986, it has succeeded in capturing students' interest, encouraging them to investigate and learn from their environment.

The hope is that this new curriculum and teaching methodology will be important in helping the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, committed to the goals of the World Conference on Education for All, provide universal primary education for its children by the year 2000.

UNICEF/CHEN

The new approach encourages active participation, collaboration and hands-on practice in learning.

Past to present

Education has changed dramatically in Bhutan over the past 30 years. In 1960, for example, the country had only 1,500 students enrolled in 59 schools. Many primary teachers were hired in India, and the entire system was patterned on the archaic British education system of the early 1900s, which consisted of rote learning from Indian primary school textbooks written for Indian students.

When I first arrived in the Kingdom to teach in 1970, many students lived at such distances that they had to walk from 10 to 15 days to reach their schools, trekking over mountain peaks from 8,000 to 10,000 feet high, through forests and wilderness.

By 1990, well into the country's sixth successive Five-Year Development Plan, the figures told a very different story. More than 46,500 students attended over 200 primary schools in a country of just over 600,000 people. The demand for education has continued to grow to such extent that the Department of Education does not have enough Bhutanese teachers or schools for all the children who want to attend.

To help meet the demand, the country, which formerly hired most of its teachers from India, now has two national teacher training colleges, one of which is exclusively devoted to the training of primary school teachers, and 60 per cent of all primary school teachers are now Bhutanese. All schools and educational institutions in the country are headed by Bhutanese teachers.

Towards a national curriculum

More than numbers have changed. The new curriculum and teaching methodology called NAPE is now being followed by all the primary schools in the lower grades.

Arising from the draft New National Plan for Education, formulated by the Department of Education in 1984, the new curriculum and teaching methodology was designed to meet the needs of children in Bhutan and to reflect their cultural heritage. NAPE aims to give children a set of basic skills and problem-solving attitudes to make their lives richer and more productive, whether they return to their homes and villages, enter technical and vocational fields or go on for academic secondary education.

Bhutanese teachers had the help of several external agencies in developing the Bhutanese-based curriculum. For instance, the British Overseas Development Agency, the World University Service of Canada and the British Voluntary Service Overseas all helped Bhutanese teachers, inexperienced in textbook writing, develop the new curriculum and write the necessary texts. The British Voluntary Service Overseas and the New Zealand Voluntary Service Abroad arranged for resource primary teachers to visit classrooms and to show Bhutanese teachers how to encourage learning activities.

UNICEF has evaluated the project and helped the Department of Education plan for its expansion, with the goal of bringing all primary schools in the country into the NAPE programme by 1997, from pre-primary classes through class VI. To prepare for the expansion, the Department of Education completed a retraining exercise for all Bhutanese primary teachers by the beginning of the academic year in 1992.

The Department of Education has also introduced multigrade organization in small community schools in remote parts of the country. Now, in areas where there are 30 or more students, the community will help construct the necessary school buildings, and the Department of Education will provide the trained teacher. Such multigrade organization and teaching methodology will not only complement NAPE but will also help to propel the country closer to its Education for All goal.

The debate

The NAPE programme has generated keen debate among teachers and educators in Bhutan. Some teachers in the higher grades feel that students taught through the NAPE system are not prepared for the rigours of education. They complain that NAPE produces undisciplined 'chatterboxes' who do not know their tables by heart. Some feel that the system 'apes' Western techniques.

Supporters of the system, however, point out that it was indigenously developed to meet the unique needs of Bhutanese children. Even though Bhutan is one of the world's less developed countries, its new approach to primary schooling has made it one of the most advanced in terms of education, certainly in the region of South Asia.

Peter Chen, who taught in Bhutan from 1970–1974, is the UNICEF Project Officer for Education in Bhutan.

UN committee on child rights takes study trip

In the first such study trip ever for a committee created by the United Nations, 8 of the 10 members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child visited Ecuador in June 1992 for a deeper perspective on the situation of children in that region.

The five-day informal consultation included meetings with officials of UN agencies and with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the area, as well as with children themselves.

For many of the group — who come from Africa, Asia and Europe, for the most part — the visit was their first close view of development problems in Latin America.

This trip and those planned for other regions are not intended to invite comparisons between regions, but to give Committee members a full view of what various groups are accomplishing in meeting the Summit goals for children and in developing national programmes of action (NPAs).

Such information and the dialogue opened with NGOs and agencies will help the Committee analyse and evaluate the reports countries will be submitting on their implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Reports from the first 57 countries to ratify the Convention are expected by the end of 1992.

Take notice of what we say

"Ever since the Convention was accepted by our country, it has been very important to make it widely known to society as a whole that we children have rights and that society must respect them.

"On the occasion of the Committee's meeting here in Ecuador, I want to ask everyone to help monitor the observance of our rights and to always take notice of what we say.

"We all still have a lot of work to do to bring about a society and a world in which children come first, but with our decisiveness and strength, I am sure we will achieve it."

So said Marianela de la Torre, Vice-President of the Children's Electoral Tribunal, when she addressed members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child meeting informally in Quito.

She was one of the many children Committee members were able to hear from during their stay, as they visited projects, learning of the problems children and their families face, as well as of the attempts by various UN organizations and agencies and NGOs to solve them.

In Guayaquil, Ecuador's most densely populated city, the group visited the Family and Community Health Programme, which mobilizes working and street children and their families to cope with common health problems in a participatory way.

At another project, Committee members saw how the distribution of flour, oil and milk to pregnant women and schoolchildren provides an important calorie and nutrient buffer for many. And at still another stop, the group learned of efforts to persuade parents who have not registered their children's births with the Government to do so. Only through registration are children legally entitled to such social welfare services as education and social security.

Background statistics

The Ecuador visit also included briefings by governmental, non-governmental and international specialists on the economic and social situation of countries in the region and the effects on children.

Ruben Ketzman of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean told the Committee that economic indicators in some countries were improving, but overall, income disparities and poverty had increased in Latin America after a decade-long recession and the implementation of adjustment policies.

Life expectancy rates were better and infant mortality rates had fallen in certain areas, according to Dr. Nestor Suárez Ojeda of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). He pointed out, however, that a PAHO study had found that 73 per cent of health centres offer unsatisfactory services.

Child labour, the main reason children leave school, is widespread in the region, according to Dr. Juan Carlos Bossio of the International Labour Organisation. Dr. Pedro Galindo of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization reported that enrolment rates were up in schools but that the region had one of the highest rates of grade repetition in the world, particularly in the early years.

The UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Marta Maurás, stressed the importance of NPAs, already officially adopted by 18 Latin American countries, in meeting the specific World Summit goals for children, as well as making concrete the rights guaranteed by the Convention.

What was learned

"The field visits have been very important for us because they have allowed us to witness, on the one hand, efficient programmes developed for children. On the other hand, we have also seen the limitations," said Marta Santos País, one of the Committee members.

In the general concluding discussion, Committee members stressed the powerful role that social mobilization and communication can play in finding solutions to problems and helping share them with others.

They also emphasized that behavioural changes, in order to be sustained, need to be accompanied by legal safeguards and responsible monitoring.

The need for accurate data and statistics, particularly on the poorest sectors of populations, was also stressed.

Committee members indicated that governments also must express their commitment to the Convention through increased allocations for social spending.

Sweden's baby-friendly initiative

RANSJO-ARVIDSSON

Recent research in Sweden shows that the first hour following birth is particularly important for the bonding between mother and child. With a little help the infant will find the nipple and start to suck within the first hour. Early mother-infant skin-to-skin contact shortly after delivery is practised in most Swedish hospitals.

By Ingeborg Nilsson

The baby-friendly hospital initiative (BFHI) is under way in Sweden, thanks to collaboration between the Government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, hospitals and the Swedish Committee for UNICEF.

The first results of their cooperation will be a baseline survey of breastfeeding conditions being conducted in the entire network of maternal and child care facilities in Sweden. "The survey will provide a framework for discussion, when current routines on breastfeeding support are being improved as part of the baby-friendly hospital initiative," said Professor Yngve Hofvander. The Professor is the chairperson of a committee of experts on maternal and child health that has been charged by the Government with devising guidelines on implementing BFHI in Sweden.

A major focus of the BFHI committee will be to tailor the initiative to conditions in Sweden. Margareta Israelsson is a member of parliament, a board member of the Swedish Committee for UNICEF and a member of the national BFHI committee. As the mother of a one-year-old girl, she knows first-hand the advantages that Swedish families already have when it comes to breastfeeding.

"Good breastfeeding practices are the fundamental right for all children, but breastfeeding is an important topic not only for children, but also for mothers and fathers. My daughter was breastfed until she was six months old. This was possible only because parents in Sweden have national insurance that permits mothers or fathers to remain at home with a child for as long as 15 months."

Among the other factors to be considered as BFHI is adapted to Sweden's conditions are the role fathers play in child-rearing and the right of mothers to be employed outside the home.

Building on success

After a decline in breastfeeding from the 1940s through the 1960s, breastfeeding rates have increased in Sweden and today about 70 per cent of Swedish mothers breastfeed their infants until they are four months of age. But even so, there is room for improvement. The Swedish strategy for BFHI will involve practice, training, information and a change in attitudes about such matters as how long mothers should breastfeed.

"We see the baby-friendly hospital initiative as an opportunity to raise consciousness and to improve practices in all hospitals, rather than a grading of hospitals," Professor Hofvander says.

The first step will be the survey of breastfeeding practices, decided upon after UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant met with Sweden's Minister of Health and Social Affairs, Mr. Bengt Westerberg, in March this year. Ultimately, Sweden should be able to set an example for other countries to follow. As Professor Hofvander says, "Sweden has set an example in maternal and child care for many decades."

NGO cooperation

Various NGOs have been advocating for government support of BFHI. "It is important for us to assess ourselves in order to contribute to the international process," says Anna-Berit Ransjo-Arvidsson, Swedish coordinator for the World Alliance of Breastfeeding Action. "Sweden also has some interesting research that has been done in the field of breastfeeding that we are eager to share with other countries.

"But there is also a reason for us to be humble vis-à-vis countries of the third world. We live in a bottle culture and we should now ask ourselves, what is a breastfeeding culture?"

Ingeborg Nilsson is Information Officer for the Swedish Committee for UNICEF.

Breastfeeding makes gains in the Republic of Korea

By Loreta M. Medina

As the Republic of Korea joins the rank of the newly industrialized countries, traditional practices such as breastfeeding are being affected. A 1990 national survey of 114 hospitals in 10 cities found that in only one hospital were infants exclusively breastfed.

To help revive breastfeeding, the baby-friendly hospital initiative (BFHI) is now in place, receiving support from the Government and from non-governmental organizations, which have been waging a breastfeeding campaign since 1983. In July, UNICEF and the World Health Organization announced a 12-member national committee of experts to promote BFHI in the Republic of Korea. At the event it was also disclosed that eight hospitals were on their way to being named baby-friendly by year-end.

The chairperson of the new BFHI committee, Dr. Seung-Jo Kim, director of Kangnam St. Mary Hospital, spoke at the event, calling for a baby-friendly insurance system, a baby-friendly government and a baby-friendly society as well.

Among the obstacles to breastfeeding in the country is the availability of breastmilk substitutes in many hospitals. UNICEF commissioned the Citizens Alliance for Consumer Protection in Korea (CACPK) to conduct a baseline survey in June on breastfeeding conditions in 232 hospitals. It found that about 3 to 5 per cent of those hospitals were still receiving free infant formula and up to 50 per cent purchased formula at less than market price.

In another CACPK survey in 1990, hospital staff identified other threats to breastfeeding. These included a lack of awareness among health professionals of the existence of the International Code on the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes; lack of knowledge among hospital personnel and mothers on the benefits of breastmilk; aggressive promotion of formula in hospitals and the media; belief among mothers that formula is as good as breastmilk; an increase in the number of women who work outside the home; and the widespread practice of bottle-feeding in hospitals.

CACPK negotiated an agreement in 1991, subsequently incorporated into law, with the three largest infant food companies in the Republic of Korea, by which the industry agreed to end infant food advertisements in the media. CACPK, however, says the promotion of infant food and products in hospitals was not affected by the ban, so milk companies continue to violate the Code. Among the misinformation new mothers are exposed to in a brochure distributed by the Mae-il Dairy in Korea is the idea that "powdered milk is the same as breastmilk."

On the positive side, figures released early this year showed a 6 per cent decline in the sale of infant formula, a dramatic change from the 10 per cent average annual growth such sales had enjoyed. The drop was attributed to the campaign to revive breastfeeding and the ban on the advertising of infant formula.

UNICEF/KOREA

A mother breastfeeds at Pusan Shimin Hospital, a candidate for the baby-friendly designation.

Loreta M. Medina is the Senior External Relations/Information Assistant in the UNICEF Seoul Office.

Experts review social mobilization course

By Jack C. Ling

The first meeting of experts to review the Social Mobilization Training and Research Programme curriculum being developed by Tulane University was held at Tulane's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, in July.

Among the participants were Dr. James Sarn, US Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Health; Dr. Lawrence Green, a health promotion scholar; Dr. Asdrubal de la Torre, former Ecuadorian Minister of Health and a leading Latin American communicator; Mr. Luis Rivera, UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Mr. Anthony Hewett, Chief of Programme Communication and Social Mobilization Section, UNICEF New York.

The first three-month social mobilization certificate course will be offered at Tulane in May 1993, targeting mid-career professionals from developing countries who will assume programme management and leadership positions in child survival and other health-related fields.

The goal of the initiative launched by Tulane and UNICEF is to develop social mobilization training and research capacity worldwide and to form an information exchange and technical support network with a flagship journal.

To date, state universities at Ife and Zaria in Nigeria, Mahidol University in Thailand and the University of the Philippines have taken steps to join the programme.

In August, a Tulane team visited Quito, Ecuador, and reached agreement to team up with CIESPAL, the leading institute of advanced studies in communication in Latin America.

In addition, steps are being taken to extend the global progamme to China and exploratory efforts are expected shortly in the Middle East.

The Tulane/UNICEF prototype curriculum development is also supported by the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and the US Agency for International Development.

Jack C. Ling directs the developmental phase of the global social mobilization training and research programme at Tulane University. For more information, contact Programme Communication Section, UNICEF New York, or the International Communication Enhancement Centre, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, 1501 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA.

AIDS programme helps youths leave streets

By Gary Knaul Barker

In the past few years, the awareness that street children are at high risk of HIV infection/AIDS has grown. Unfortunately, these children are difficult to reach with AIDS prevention messages for a number of reasons, including a lack of power in their sexual relationships, low self-esteem and a sense of fatalism which inhibits long-term prevention efforts.

To prepare for the Second International Conference on AIDS and Street Youth, held in Brazil in September, CHILDHOPE carried out a series of group discussions earlier this year with street youth, with support from UNICEF. The purpose was to gather suggestions and ideas directly from street children themselves about health education and AIDS prevention measures that would reach them more effectively.

Learning from the children

The first group discussions were held in late March in Nairobi, Kenya, in collaboration with the Undugu Society, an organization that works with street youth. Undugu invited 36 youths currently living on the streets, 21 girls and 15 boys, between the ages of 8 and 18, for the two-and-a-half-day event.

Undugu planned a mix of recreation, group discussions and AIDS educational activities. The educational activities included a discussion with two persons with AIDS, a showing of the 'Karate Kids' video from Street Kids International, a Kenyan video on AIDS and activities from 'Life Planning Education', a youth development curriculum from the Centre for Population Options.

What worked, what didn't

The conclusion was that a combination of activities was the most effective way of reaching street youth with AIDS prevention messages.

Some young people identified with the characters in 'Karate Kids', while others said the video did not represent Kenya. Several felt that AIDS was not a major problem in Kenya. However, the Kenyan video, which included scenes that the participants recognized as taking place in their country and which showed Kenyans affected by AIDS, helped dispel doubts that the disease exists in Kenya. The presentation by two people with AIDS also helped overcome the issue of denial and strengthened sympathy and support for those suffering from the disease. (Yet even after the presentation, a few of the young people did not believe the two had AIDS, since both looked healthy. Undugu staff had to convince them that HIV-positive people may not actually look ill.)

The 'Life Planning' activity — designed to encourage the youths to reflect on what was most important to them and their future — at first did not seem to work well. The follow-up discussions, however, revealed the opposite — that while the group appeared to have followed the exercise with little interest, the activity had actually made the boys and girls think about their future and what they wanted to do with their lives.

Leaving the street, changing their lives

As a result, in part, of the 'Life Planning' activity discussions, all 36 young people said that they did not want to return to the streets, and asked Undugu for help. Undugu made room for the boys in their reception centre for street boys and rented a temporary space for the girls, while they looked for long-term options and group homes.

Undugu had previously discussed AIDS prevention in its residential and training programmes for street boys but had never before held such intensive educational activities on AIDS and health with boys and girls still living on the streets. The conclusion was that the youths clearly heard and understood the message that AIDS was something that could directly affect them and that their lifestyles placed them at high risk.

The youth in effect responded by saying that they understood the need to prevent HIV transmission but that the only way they could do so was by leaving the streets and changing their lives. Two weeks after the gathering, all but two of the youth were still in the residential programme. An additional 10 girls living on the streets, who had not participated in the event, also asked Undugu to help them leave the streets when they discovered that a number of their friends had been able to do so.

Of special note

The chief conclusion for Undugu was the importance of an activity such as group discussions in a relatively secluded setting. These give the young people a necessary 'space' between the street and the next phase in their lives, in which to reflect about their future.

The event was also extremely important for Undugu's work with street girls. Undugu has a long history of successfully assisting street boys, who, as Undugu staff reported, often find it easier than girls to accept the alternatives presented to them. For street girls, the money earned from prostitution and the pressure placed on them by their common-law husbands to support them make it difficult for them to break away from the streets.

Gary Knaul Barker is a project officer with the Centre for Population Options (a Washington, D.C.-based non-governmental organization working in adolescent health) and a consultant with CHILDHOPE and UNICEF. He currently resides in Bogota, Colombia.

AIDS education that works

Several campaigns and projects that aim to prevent HIV infection are showing success, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), which reviewed 15 projects in 13 countries.

Among the successful projects is one in the United Republic of Tanzania established along the trans-African Tandumia highway, which targets long-distance truck drivers, their assistants and prostitutes. The project has succeeded in increasing condom use among prostitutes along the truck routes from 50 to 91 per cent. In the Philippines, a survey of the general population revealed that a media campaign on radio and television and in the newspapers had been very effective in raising awareness about AIDS. One of the most effective approaches reviewed by WHO is a community-based programme in Zimbabwe, in which community actors and musicians serve as educators along with sex workers, proving that advice and support from others in the community are powerful AIDS-prevention tools.

In a study published in the *International Quarterly of Community Health Education* (Vol. 12 (3), p. 225-249, 1991-92), researcher Kim Witte explored the effectiveness of messages about AIDS that threaten or frighten people.

She found that such messages are effective as long as people believe they can prevent the risk to themselves by taking action. If they think they cannot protect themselves, they may reject the message or suppress any thoughts of the danger.

Gearing up for the Year of the World's Indigenous People

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 1993 the International Year of the World's Indigenous People. It is hoped that this special year will be the beginning of an increased awareness about the lives and needs of indigenous people.

HEDDY ASTRUP, Assistant Public Affairs Officer in the Child Rights and Public Policy Section of UNICEF, asks and answers some basic questions to put the upcoming Year in focus.

Who are indigenous people?

Indigenous people, numbering approximately 250 million in more than 70 countries around the world, are broadly defined as those whose ancestors were the original inhabitants of lands then colonized or settled by others. Among the characteristics indigenous people share is the fact that their names for themselves (e.g. Inuit, Kayapo, Hmong, Maori) generally mean 'people' and the names of their lands generally translate as 'our land', reflecting the strong, fundamental relationship they maintain with their land.

Why is there a special Year for indigenous people?

The Year will give indigenous people, generally the very poorest in their broader societies, an opportunity to call attention to their ways of life and to the discrimination and disadvantages they face. Enormous changes have overtaken these people, with economic developments such as mining, the construction of dams and extensive logging destroying the foundation of many of their cultures, displacing and impoverishing them. Often, indigenous people have not been parties to the decisions affecting their societies. The General Assembly resolution on the Year thus calls for a "new partnership" to be created among indigenous people, governments and the United Nations, which will help address their needs, promote an understanding of their cultures and incorporate indigenous communities into the decision-making process.

What preparations have taken place so far?

In 1991, the General Assembly laid out the goals and activities for the Year and appointed the Centre for Human Rights to coordinate them. Also in 1991, the UNICEF Executive Board adopted a decision asking the UNICEF secretariat to make plans for the Year, and to strengthen projects in areas inhabited by indigenous people. Most recently, in July, representatives of approximately 40 indigenous organizations, 30 governments and various UN agencies met in Geneva to discuss the aims and projects for the Year.

What machinery already exists to protect indigenous people?

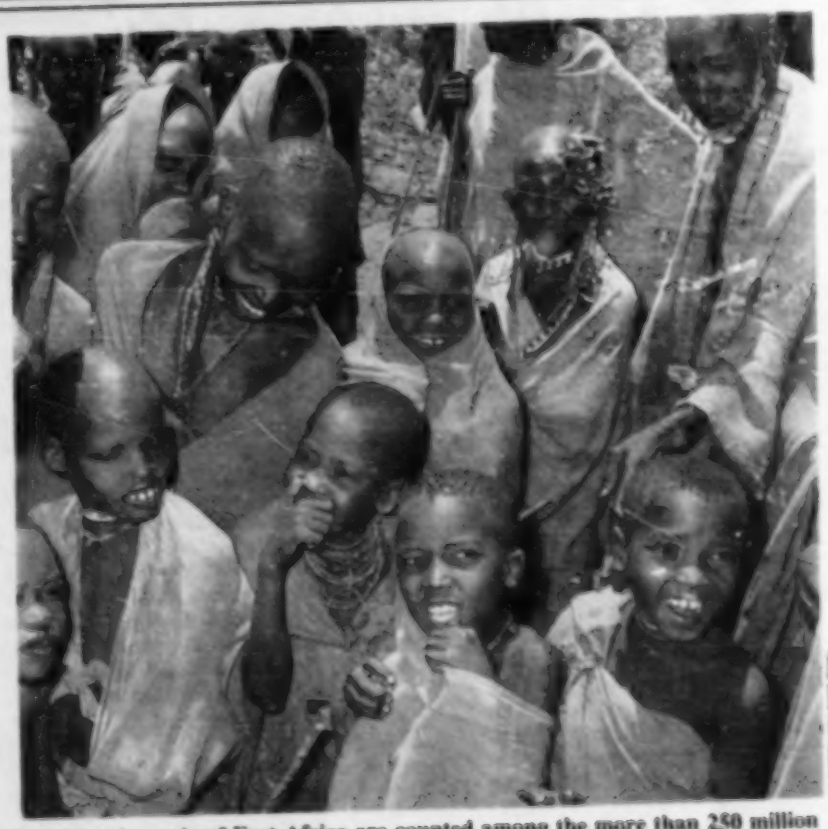
The International Labour Organisation's Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (No. 169) protects "the rights of peoples whose ways of life and existence were, as now, threatened by dominating cultures." A draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is being prepared by the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, part of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a subgroup of the Human Rights Commission.

When is the Year's launch?

The Year will be launched on 10 December 1992 at the United Nations in New York. The events will include an NGO briefing, a press conference, an informal General Assembly session and a special evening event with performances by indigenous people.

How is the Year being financed?

The General Assembly established a Voluntary Fund, which will be used to finance projects for indigenous communities. Contributions to the Fund are invited from governments, organizations and individuals.



The Masai people of East Africa are counted among the more than 250 million indigenous people in the world.

Africa conference to focus on child g

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Development planning has been undertaken by African countries since the inception of bilateral and multilateral aid programmes in the 1950s, in which priorities were largely set by the donor countries.

NPAs, however, have brought new dimensions and new energy to the process. What makes NPAs unique is the focus and prominence they give to the needs of children and women. For the first time in many countries, **NPAs will link children's goals to broad national development plans and budgets**. In many instances, they will be the central element of human development strategies at the national and sometimes at the provincial level.

Ghana's NPA is particularly strong in these respects, as well as in many others (*please see box at right*). **Madagascar** combined its NPA with its National Environmental Plan of Action, calling it *Children and the Environment; Saplings Who Renew the Forest*. In **Equatorial Guinea** and the newly independent State of **Namibia**, national development plans do not exist and their NPAs were the first and most important social planning the countries had undertaken.

Another distinctive aspect of NPAs has been **the process of active and wide participation** of members of the government, non-governmental organizations and the public in their preparation. This helps broaden the sense of ownership and accountability of all involved. In **Morocco**, the NPA was the first time a plan for children had been developed through the participation of all ministries. In **Mali**, a number of round-table discussions involving government and community leaders are planned on the NPA.

BUDGETS REORDERED

NPAs also re-emphasize, as blueprints for national development, that countries can and must provide health, education and social services to their people even before higher levels of economic growth are reached. In fact, the provision of such services is crucial in generating and sustaining economic growth. In this respect, some NPAs have **reordered national budgetary priorities** and development aid allotments. Some African countries are now taking the opportunities arising from peace to reduce military outlays and increase spending on urgent human development needs. Through its NPA, the **Sudan** reconstructed its national budget, emphasizing decentralization. In its NPA, **Senegal** devised special measures for the 30,000 children in especially difficult circumstances in Dakar.

Many countries have also taken **creative approaches**, making full use of their particular circumstances and cultural context. In **Niger**, for example, the NPA made special provisions to improve Koranic schools, which more than 60 per cent of children attend. **Guinea**'s NPA exercise provided an opportunity to analyse constraints in implementing education policy and to develop strategies to overcome them, involving the private sector in the educational process as well.

In **Kenya**, the NPA outlined especially significant strategies on the environment, proposing measures to monitor industrial air pollution and to improve the hygiene standards in houses to protect children from indoor air pollution, caused by the burning of firewood and poor ventilation.

Djibouti's NPA stressed the need to care for war refugees and to make consumption patterns conform more closely to resources, by encouraging the

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE CENTRAL TO GHANA'S NPA

Ghana has established a strong relationship between the goals of its national programme of action (NPA) and those of the human development initiative (HDI) of UNDP. The major NPA goals represent quantitative formulations of some of the 18 key HDI multisectoral goals. Substrategies of the HDI are reflected in: programmes targeting disadvantaged groups and regions; decentralization of service planning and delivery; the inclusion of NGOs, the private sector and local communities in the mobilization effort; and improved collaboration among development agents. To guarantee that improvements are made in the lives of the country's children, the NPA addresses broad economic, social, financial, political and institutional issues.

INDICATIVE ANNUAL COSTS FO THE GOALS IN AFRICA, 1993-2

	US mil
Key sectoral programmes	
Basic health care	
Basic education	
Nutrition-focused programmes	
Water supply and sanitation	4.
Subtotal	8.
Targeted cross-sectoral actions	
Improvement of livelihoods	
Environmental preservation	
Subtotal	1.
Special postwar and post-disaster support	
Postwar livelihood rehabilitation	2
Post-disaster support	
Subtotal	2
Total annual costs	12

SOURCE: *Africa's Children, Africa's Future*, Organization of A Unity/UNICEF, 1992

How industrialized countries have approached the

By Ian Steele

It has been more than two years since leaders attending the World Summit for Children promised to prepare national programmes of action (NPAs) to implement the goals of that historic meeting.

In that time, at least 50 nations have completed their NPAs, and about 84 are in the process of preparing them. Excluding the countries of the former Soviet Union and those of Central and Eastern Europe that are still in a state of transition or turmoil, nearly half of all industrialized countries have so far completed their NPAs. These include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The Holy See has also completed its NPA.

The original guidelines for NPAs sought, among other things, a re-examination of national policies and priorities in favour of child development; the active participation of relevant government ministries, provincial and local governments, civic groups and NGOs in the preparation of NPAs; and widespread publicity about national goals for children and the means of achieving them. The World Summit Plan of Action also called upon donor countries to increase official development assistance (ODA) and to concentrate assistance on health, education and other areas of direct benefit to children.

A comparison of NPAs from industrialized countries with those from developing countries reveals some important differences in country approaches.

Points of departure

Generally, the NPAs of developing countries have been forward looking, and many have endeavoured to cost out objectives in terms of what can be done locally and what is needed in outside support. In contrast, so far the NPAs of industrialized countries focus largely on past and present performance and give little indication of future plans. Also, with few exceptions, they avoid commitments for increased ODA or reallocation of existing ODA in favour of programmes for children, which the Summit Plan of Action specifically recommends.

For both industrialized and developing countries, the preparation process itself is proving a key to a successful NPA.

"The objective of the NPA is not just to prepare a document, but to initiate a process that will improve children's lives," says Kul Gautam, Director of the UNICEF Planning and Co-ordination Office. "The quality of each NPA seems to be very closely related to the process followed to prepare it. Some countries, including Canada *(see box)*, have involved many government departments, and they have interacted with the NGO community. There has been lots of discussion and debate, and it shows in a well-rounded presentation."

So far, Canada alone among the industrialized countries launched its NPA publicly to promote debate. "The Minister gave a press conference and put it in the public domain where people could examine and criticize it," Mr. Gautam said. "Unfortunately, this is not happening in most countries."

NPAs were also expected to encourage cohesive strategies. "In every country, you will find different ministries doing things for children in their own area of specialization, be it education, health or welfare," he continued.

"We had thought that the NPA would be one place where you might find a vision for children that encompassed their total needs. We have seen that vision in the NPAs from most developing countries, but we have been somewhat disappointed by the overall approach of the industrialized countries."

Strong points

However, many good things can be found in the richer nations' responses.

Finland's NPA identifies specific goals and priorities for the well-being of Finnish children and includes a brief section on international cooperation and ODA targeted on children. Currently, more than half of Finnish bilateral ODA is allocated to low-income countries, with Africa the pr[illegible] region.

Japan's NPA, the first prepared by an industrialized country, briefly reviews the country's extraordinary achievement in reducing infant mortality from 122.7 to 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in just over 40 years and notes impressive achievements in education. But it observes that while equality for women has been established in the legal and institutional sense, "there is still much room for improvement."

Japan's NPA is unique in that the Government has pledged to review its ODA budget and to increase the share for human development, and children and women in particular. The NPA states that Japan will try to increase its contribution to UNICEF, which represents about 5.5 per cent of UNICEF's total income from governments, to be more in line with Japan's 12.5 per cent assessed share of the UN budget. The document suggests that Japan will strengthen its future assistance in the areas of education, health and family planning.

The domestic portion of the **Netherlands'** NPA is still being prepared, but its 'Report to UNICEF' shows that it has taken seriously the Summit recommendation that nations re-examine their development assistance budgets. A Children and Development Task Force was set up to catalogue current activities for children, to draft a policy document for the gradual integration of child-related activities into the Netherland's development cooperation policy and to promote awareness and provide information on children's needs.

"The NPAs have the potential to become the overall framework for guiding action and mobilizing energies and resources, both at national and international levels, as well as for translating the goals and visions for the decade into reality."

— UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant, in his 1992 report to the Executive Board

Sweden's NPA describes the favourable situation of Swedish children, together with the social welfare policies that provide for their needs. It is very strong on the role of the family and the responsibilities of both parents. While a change of government during the preparation of the NPA led to inadequate public interaction in the NPA process, it is expected that a much greater degree of consultation will occur between government and outside bodies in the preparation of complementary report for th Committee on the Rights of th Child.

The **United Kingdom** pre sented a 'National Report' th describes ongoing actions opposed to future plans. Th domestic portion notes th national statistics meet or surpa many of the Summit Goal although it welcomes the goal-se ting exercise as a means of redu ing disparities that might othe wise be masked by national ave ages. Areas in which furth progress is needed include t reduction of stillbirths and smo ing in pregnant women, the pr motion of balanced nutritio among young people, control drug abuse and of HIV/AI transmission.

The international secti notes that the Government's fu damental objective is to he reduce poverty and promote su tainable economic and soci development through good go ernment, better education a health, and support for pr grammes that enable women choose when they have children

The NPA of the **Unit States** is expected shortly, and, the basis of two very thorou reports prepared on domes issues affecting child health the occasion of the Wo Summit, it is eagerly await Increases already made in allo tions for domestic programm such as Head Start and for USAID-administered Child S vival Fund, the U.S. contribut to UNICEF and other measu outlined in 'the World Summit Children Implementation Ac 1991' all testify to the [illegible] port that exists in the U.S. child survival and developm programmes.

When asked if industrial countries questioned the releva of NPAs to children in relati privileged circumstances, Gautam said he believed this a minority view. "Most coun

oals

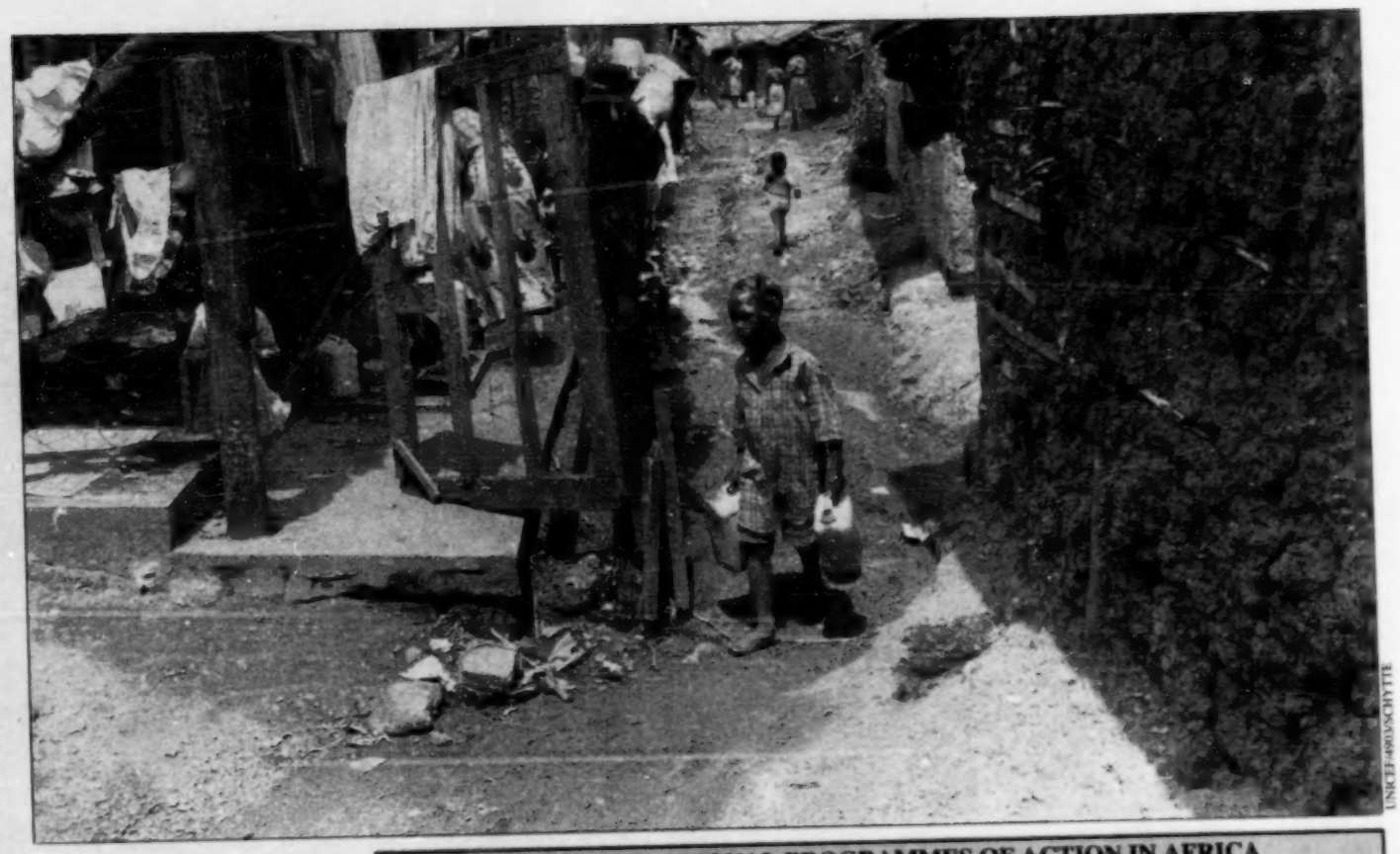
onsumption of local products nd foods such as fish, in which he country is rich.

PRESAGING SUCCESS

Africa has known successes in the past. For much of the three decades since most countries of the continent achieved independence, progress has been made in reducing infant mortality (which has dropped on average by 37 per cent), raising life expectancy (from 40 to 53 years) and improving education, the supply of safe water and other social services.

Such a record bodes well for the future, in spite of the challenges the continent faces. The alternative is no alternative at all: if unchecked, the slide of the last decade will take an enormous human toll. Nearly 5 million more infants and children will die each year; the lives of 165,000 more women will be lost from causes related to pregnancy; over 34 million of the continent's children will suffer chronic and severe malnutrition; and 150 million adults will struggle under the limitations of illiteracy.

Donald J. Casey is a development consultant.



UNICEF 4805/CHOYTE

STATUS OF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION IN AFRICA (as of late September 1992)

NPA FINALIZED	DRAFT/OUTLINE FORMULATED	
Central African Republic	Algeria	Mauritania
Djibouti	Benin	Mozambique
Egypt	Botswana	Niger
Ghana	Burkina Faso	Nigeria
Guinea	Burundi	Rwanda
Kenya	Cameroon	Sao Tome and Principe
Mali	Chad	Swaziland
Morocco	Côte d'Ivoire	Tanzania
Namibia	Equatorial Guinea	Uganda
Senegal	Gambia	Zambia
Sudan	Libya	Zimbabwe
Tunisia		

Countries not included have been hindered in the NPA process for serious economic, conflict or political reasons.

SOURCE: UNICEF Planning and Coordination Office

PREPARATION UNDER WAY	
Angola	Madagascar
Cape Verde	Malawi
Comoros	Mauritius
Congo	Seychelles
Ethiopia	Sierra Leone
Guinea-Bissau	Togo
Lesotho	Zaire

COMPARISON OF REGIONS WITHIN AFRICA: MAJOR SOCIAL INDICATORS, 1990 (MEDIAN VALUES)

Region	Under-5 mortality rate	Under-5 deaths (millions)	GNP per capita (US$)	GNP per capita average annual growth rate 1980-90 (%)	Total population (millions)	Underweight (% of under-5s)	Primary school enrolment ratio (gross %)	Adult literacy rate (%) male	Adult literacy rate (%) female	Safe water access (% of population)
Eastern	171	1.4	225	-0.7	165	33	72	71	43	34
Southern	129	0.4	470	-0.9	48	20	100	78	63	55
Central	169	0.7	390	-0.8	82	29	67	64	40	38
Western	210	1.7	375	-1.3	192	26	53	49	24	54
Northern	98	0.4	1,420	0.3	115	12	93	70	46	71
AFRICA	167	4.6	415	-0.7	638	24	67	62	36	54

Source: *Africa's Children, Africa's Future*, Organization of African Unity/UNICEF, 1992
Notes: Enrolment data are for the period 1986-89. Water data are for the period 1988-1990.

ir NPAS

in the industrialized world feel that it applies to them, although they don't feel the pressing need for it that poorer countries do," he said. "They might say, 'we are already doing the best we can'. But the fact is that there are enormous problems confronting children in many industrialized countries and it is not enough to say, 'we are doing our best'."

Mid-decade review

As the lead United Nations agency for children, UNICEF has been asked by the UN Secretary-General to help analyse the plans and actions of all nations to meet Summit goals for children and to assist with a mid-decade review.

In the case of the industrialized nations, however, this work is unlikely to extend beyond a very general summary of performance. "Our staff and other resources are already fully committed to needs in developing countries," Mr. Gautam said.

One useful role that UNICEF could play would be to highlight activities in the industrialized countries that have worked well for children and might be replicated. In fact, the UNICEF International Child Development Centre in Florence does some research on the issue of child poverty in the industrialized countries that is very relevant in the context of NPAs.

Mr. Gautam added that the challenge, now that a significant cross-section of developing and industrialized countries have produced their NPAs, is to find resources to back them. There is a need also for countries to be less concerned about meeting target dates for their submissions and more concerned about their content. "Frankly, it would be better if a country took a little longer and submitted a better product," he said.

Ian Steele is a consultant writer and editor for UNICEF in New York.

Innovative approach to basic education in Niger

Sixty per cent of children in Niger between the ages of 7 and 14 attend Koranic schools, giving such schools an important place in the country's educational process. However, their educational infrastructure is often poor and the quality of the pedagogy uneven.

In its NPA, therefore, Niger has set the specific goals of improving the buildings and furnishings of approximately 1,600 Koranic schools; upgrading the instructional equipment in 700; training 16,500 new teachers; and preparing 280 teachers to be teacher trainers.

Brighter future in Canada

Having served as co-chairman of the World Summit for Children, Canada's Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, has an especially large stake in seeing that his Government's promises to children are translated into effective action.

"The World Summit was not in itself the answer to the problems facing children and parents," he said in the foreword to Canada's 47-page national programme of action (NPA). "It was a catalyst to engage governments, organizations, parents and even children in activities to improve the lives of children in every country."

True to those words, the Canadian Government has engaged public opinion and discourse on such issues as environmental protection, the challenges of single-parenting, the economic and social disadvantages faced by aboriginal children and the status of women in the preparation of its NPA.

As a centrepiece of Summit follow-up, Canada's NPA describes itself as "a blueprint for the federal Government's response to the challenges faced by children and families in our country and around the world."

The NPA spells out those challenges faced by Canada in relation to its own children and lists measures taken since the World Summit to help developing countries meet their children's needs. These include support for: the fight against micronutrient deficiencies; the Children's Vaccine Initiative and the development of new vaccines; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

While taking advantage of its NPA to publicize achievements for children both domestically and internationally, the Government has also been candid about weaknesses in its domestic social 'safety net', addressing those challenges in a six-point, long-term framework for action.

The NPA notes that the Government has designated the Minister of National Health and Welfare to oversee Summit follow-up and has established a Children's Bureau to coordinate Canada's responses to the Summit Declaration.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has established a Task Force on Child Survival and Development, which will report to the Minister for External Relations and International Development, to set priorities and oversee activities and initiatives for children.

The Government also declared its intention to devote CAN$500 million over the next five years to a Child Development Initiative aimed at preventing and reducing threats to children's well-being. —*I. Steele*

RESEARCH DIGEST

A short summary of *Women, Work and Child Care*, a report of an Innocenti Global Seminar held in October 1991 in Casablanca, Morocco, prepared by James R. Himes, Cassie Landers and Joanne Leslie and published by the UNICEF International Child Development Centre, Spedale degli Innocenti, Florence, Italy, 1992.

UNICEF/1569/WTLJN

Child care is an area of particular and urgent need in the shifting social and economic circumstances that women and families face, as traditional forms of social organization give way to more nuclear or female-headed households.

Major changes in family and work patterns, described in the report as "family/labour force transition," are having profound effects on mothers and children around the world, disrupting many "familiar cultural practices and survival patterns that women have developed over the years to cope with their multiple responsibilities.

"...We are seeing families shifting from traditional, extended forms of social organization to more nuclear or female headed households... Women are also moving quickly from traditional work in subsistence agriculture and household management to entirely new forms of paid employment...Trends of this sort, relating also to exceptionally rapid rates of urbanization as well as to national and international migration of both male and female workers, are putting far more than the normal 'double burdens' on women with children and with low incomes than are often described in dry terms in the statistics and the literature of national and international agencies," writes James R. Himes, Director of the UNICEF International Child Development Centre in Florence, in the introduction.

Child care, the seminar found, is an area of particular and urgent need in the shifting social and economic circumstances that women and families face. The report stressed that "governments, employers, communities and families must identify culturally appropriate and affordable solutions to the provision of adequate child care." A strong consensus also emerged on the special urgency of drawing men into assuming greater responsibilities for child-rearing.

The limits of child care

Care for children under the age of three, the report contends, is the major issue confronting both industrialized and developing countries. Almost all industrialized countries provide maternity or parenting leave, although length of leave and proportion of wages paid, among other factors, vary.

In the developing world, the report notes, while formal, publicly supported and supervised child-care programmes are limited, many informal projects and initiatives exist. However, most of these do not respond to the child-care needs of working mothers.

Interesting case-studies

Innovative strategies are being tried in several countries, however, that are helping to meet the challenge.

In India, for example, small-scale day-care facilities (called mobile crèches) have been set up at construction sites to care for the children of female construction workers. In Nepal, mothers look after small groups of young children on a rotational basis, in a home-based child-care programme which is a component of a production credit scheme for rural women.

In Ethiopia, a farmers' cooperative set up a day-care centre to support overworked women members of the cooperative. The centre cares for children from the age of 45 days (the length of maternity leave allowed), and its flexible schedule is coordinated with mothers' working hours. Mothers can visit several times a day to breastfeed their children. The centre also provides immunization and health care services.

Since the centre was established, the cooperative's productivity has increased, absenteeism from work has fallen dramatically and children are healthier and make an easier transition to school.

Intersecting needs

The report cites the shared recognition of the intersecting needs of women and children as perhaps the most encouraging finding to emerge from the seminar. Participants explored opportunities for incorporating a child development component into existing interventions designed to improve the overall status of women.

For example, projects that relieve women from the burden of domestic chores, reduce the time they spend in fetching water and firewood and processing food, were seen as important. Participants also suggested that credit schemes could be developed to support alternative child-care initiatives. In a programme in Colombia, for example, women were extended credit that they used to improve their homes, which could then serve as home day-care locations. Skills training and women's literacy and education programmes are key to child development.

An excerpt from 'Women and Structural Adjustment: Operational Implications for Member Organizations of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy', an issues paper, August 1991.

"The most extended studies carried out to date on the impact of economic crisis and structural adjustment programmes on women advance the idea that women have borne the brunt of adjustment...

"Several authors have taken the greater contribution of women to household provisioning and the gender differential in total work burden as the starting-point for examining the impact of structural adjustment programmes on women. D. Elson has developed a conceptual framework for examining the impact of crisis and adjustment programmes against this background. In Elson's view, policy makers have understood perfectly well that women take on the bulk of household-level nurturing and, in the 1980s, they exploited that fact for policy ends.

"Moreover, **extra** unpaid labour is held to be available at the household level. It is implicitly assumed that women have free labour time, to be used either directly in production or to take up the slack and provide services replacing those no longer supplied under subsidy by the state. This is relevant to policies designed to mobilize resources ... and to improve the cost-effectiveness of social programmes — for example, charging fees for health, education, water and energy supplies. This predisposes policy makers to make such cuts in social services and amounts to a gender bias in the retrenchment programme...

"One of the few case-studies of the impact of economic crisis and structural adjustment at the community level... compares the situation of women in a poor urban community in Ecuador in the 1980s before and after economic recession.

"Poor women's involvement in paid activity increased, and demands on women's time from cuts in local social services and from community projects had increased, in circumstances of general pressure on real incomes.

"Women heads of households were among those under the most severe pressures. The principal effects were the greater work effort imposed on women and greater difficulties for their children. The children of women who were overstretched were supervised. School enrolments declined among girls, who were kept at home to help with household tasks.

"This finding is a salutary reminder that, although positive intergenerational effects are a major social benefit from improvements in women's social and economic position, the same relationship obtains in periods of retrogression to magnify the damage — which is concentrated on women — by affecting their children as well."

DOUG BRUNNER

Tunis camp makes summer a success

Children and youths from poor regions of Tunisia had time for fun — a factor often missing in their lives — and no time to get into trouble, thanks to the summer camp organized last year by the Tunisian Ministry for Childhood and Adolescence.

Camp Enfance–Jeunesse 2001 brought together about 600 children between the ages of 10 and 16 who had dropped out of school, with the aim of helping them think about their future in a positive setting. Held at Chebba, a small town in eastern Tunisia, the two-week session gave the youngsters a chance to learn about opportunities for vocational training and exposed them to cultural events.

The experience was interesting for the adults involved as well as for the children. Participants at an evaluation meeting earlier this year — including university students, leaders, representatives of the Ministry for Childhood and Adolescence and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Training and Employment and others — all had positive comments about the experience and its eventual follow-up.

The camp is seen as the start of a movement for children and represents a step towards attaining the objectives set by the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children.

—Jamal Osman-Abdaliah, Information/Communications Chief, UNICEF Tunis.

VIEWPOINT

Integrated education: A moral issue

By Dr. Colin Irwin of the Department of Social Anthropology, Queen's University of Belfast

When the first national system of education was established in Dublin in 1831, it was intentionally created to be non-denominational. The hope for students was "that by learning to live together as children they would at least tolerate each other as adults."

Unfortunately, this early attempt to produce a mixed education system was opposed by the churches, with the result that it became segregated within 20 years of its foundation.

Similarly, in response to Jewish and Arab riots in Palestine in the 1930s and 1940s, the British Government considered introducing a system of integrated secondary education. According to the Government, "The existing Arab and Jewish school systems are definitely widening and will continue to widen the gulf between the races."

However, such a policy was impossible to implement because article 15 of the 1923 British Mandate had conferred "the right of each community to maintain its own schools for the education of its own members." By the 1930s and 1940s, public institutions and opinion had already been shaped along lines of social division.

Education as common denominator

Many may wish to think that they are immune from the conflicting forces that plague Northern Ireland and Israel, but among the wealthy nations, new political relationships and increased migration are producing an ever greater degree of social and cultural diversity. In other parts of the world, as colonialism gives way to self-determination, ethnic and sectarian violence persistently divides those who once cooperated to fight a common enemy, and the social fabric of these new nations is torn apart.

To help integrate communities, private charities in many countries have started integrated schools. These include the 'All Children Together' schools for Catholics and Protestants in Belfast, Northern Ireland; Neve Shalom: Wahat Al-Salam for Jews, Moslems and Christians, near Jerusalem in Israel; and the 'New Era Schools Trust' for Black, Coloured and White students in South Africa.

Lagan College, the first integrated secondary school to be established in Northern Ireland, now has over 700 pupils. The College was founded on a principle of equality that establishes a balance between the Catholic and Protestant students, staff and governors. This principle of equality also extends to the teaching of history, culture and the political views of both communities.

Research has proven the social value of this experiment. When new students come to Lagan College from segregated primary schools, they have few friends in the 'other' community. However, after five years at Lagan College, the children have slightly more friends — 55 per cent of all their friendships — in the 'other' community than in their own, as common interests take precedence over religion as a basis for relationships. And among past pupils, this cross-community contact fell only slightly: 44 per cent of the friends of past pupils were still from the 'other' community.

Obstacles to integrated education

There is one circumstance under which integrated education can never work: when parents and community leaders choose not to send their children to, or permit the establishment of, integrated schools.

Shortly after the 1967 war, Meron Benvenisti, the then Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, briefly promoted the idea of Arab and Jewish integrated education in an effort to unite the separate communities of that divided city. Although only 55 per cent of Jews would not accept integration, lack of official support brought an end to this initiative and parents had no choice but to send their children to segregated schools.

In Northern Ireland polls suggest that as many as 70 per cent of young people would like to attend integrated schools. But the Catholic Church has refused to make provision for their priests to give denominational care to the Catholic students in these schools, and Protestant politicians persistently try to obstruct the establishment of new integrated schools.

How the Convention can help

Legislation can play a key role in discouraging or promoting prosocial education policies. For example, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe ensures that "the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities will be protected and persons belonging to national minorities have the right freely to express, preserve and develop that identity without any discrimination and in full equality before the law." The intent of these rights is surely commendable providing they are not extended explicitly to include segregated education.

Fortunately, the Convention on the Rights of the Child seeks to promote understanding and respect for all ethnic and religious groups through the medium of education by preparing "the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin."

Establishing the best possible balance between the educational rights of minorities and the need to promote prosocial education policies is not a simple task. However, it is clear from the separate experiences of Israel and Northern Ireland that legislation that promotes education policies for social renewal needs to be enacted. All over the world, in Eastern Europe, Lebanon, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the former Yugoslavia and the occupied territories, those who have the resources and those who choose peace through education must not be denied their ambition. Integrated education should be a human right.

An issue of morality

Through our schools we attempt to create the societies we desire. But the societies we dream of, and proclaim as our ideal — egalitarian, meritocratic, non-racial and non-sectarian — are very rarely mirrored in the learning institutions to which we entrust our children, the future generation.

This hypocrisy can create exploitation and hatred of one group by another. In Northern Ireland, and elsewhere in the world, this segregation and bigotry can lead to violence and violent death. We cannot justify this hypocrisy.

The tolerant and just societies that we desire must first be created in our schools. Integrated education is actively promoted by some religious leaders in various parts of the world troubled by conflict. The ecumenical community and school for peace in Israel, established by a Dominican priest, Father Bruno, is just one example that religious and secular leaders in divided communities around the world would do well to follow.

Those who oppose such institutional changes must take much of the responsibility for the social failings of their communities.

Dr. Colin Irwin, of the Department of Social Anthropology in Queen's University of Belfast, is author of a research report entitled 'Education and the Development of Social Integration in Divided Societies', published by the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, 16 Mount Charles, Belfast BT7 1NZ.

BOOKS

***Where There Is No Doctor*, by David Werner with Carol Thuman and Jane Maxwell; The Hesperian Foundation, Palo Alto, Calif., USA, 1992.**

The new edition of this 512-page health care manual (originally published in 1977), widely used by midwives, mothers, teachers and others in the developing world, has been revised to include such new topics and updated sections as how to care for people with AIDS and ways to prevent the disease, women's health and nutrition, drug addiction, tips on building improved latrines and risks of pesticide exposure. Copies are available from The Hesperian Foundation, P.O. Box 1692, Palo Alto, Calif. 94302, USA. Their fax number is (415) 325-9044. The book costs $13.00, plus $1.00 shipping per book (or $11.00 per book when 12 or more copies are ordered). For low-income citizens of developing countries, the price is $6.00 each, or $5.00 each when 12 or more copies are ordered, shipping included.

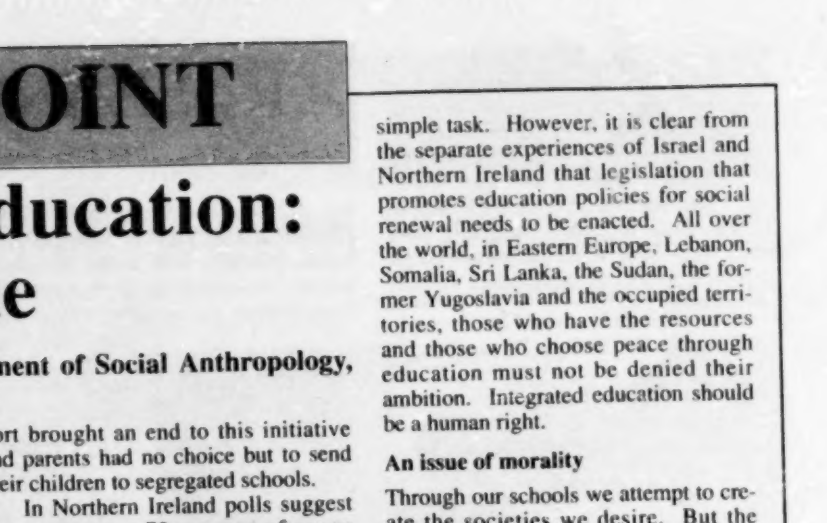
***Health Care of Women and Children in Developing Countries*, edited by Helen M. Wallace and Kanti Giri; Third Party Publishing Company, Oakland, Calif., 1990.**

This compendium of 48 articles and essays by noted experts covers a host of topics on the health and welfare of women and children in the developing world, such as infant and child mortality, oral rehydration therapy, women's health and nutrition, day care, school health services and adolescent health. Numerous charts, tables and statistics help establish and illustrate the links between social and public health gains in many areas of primary health. The book is a reference and resource for public health educators and administrators, health care and community workers and planners.

***Children of the Cities*, by Jo Boyden with Pat Holden; Zed Books Ltd., London, 1991. For a list of distributors, write to Zed Books, 57 Caledonia Road, London N1 9BU, fax: 44-(0)71-833-3960.**

A well-written and informative examination of the risks and challenges that the world's growing urbanization poses to children. The book provides a rich historical and cultural context for its discussion and then explores a variety of situations that children are facing with more frequency, including stresses on the family, high levels of crime and risk-taking behaviour, disease (including HIV/AIDS), homelessness, education and employment. 'Action' sections at the ends of most chapters offer ideas and strategies — drawn from worldwide examples — that policy makers and community worker can consider in addressing the burgeoning needs of their children citizens.

TETSUKO'S ROOM



UNICEF/93/CERNI

Since Tetsuko Kuroyanagi was appointed Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF in 1984, vacations for the popular Japanese television personality have been spent visiting refugee camps, admiring schools and trying new water pumps. The talk-show host annually launches a nationwide appeal for funds to support UNICEF activities by featuring her trips on TV, including her popular daily show, *Tetsuko's Room*. The response so far has been over US$7.5 million in donations. Five of Kuroyanagi's nine missions have been to Africa, including Angola, Mozambique, Niger, the United Republic of Tanzania and, in August, Ethiopia.

LETTERS

You will be glad to know that the Indian Medical Association, a body of 85,000 doctors with 1,500 branches all over India, has involved itself actively in the baby-friendly hospital initiative, forming a national task force and a national implementation committee. We have sent forms to 500 nursing homes all over India and are receiving the returned forms with requests for baby-friendly recognition.

Dr. Jagdish C. Sobti
Hon. Joint Secretary
Indian Medical Association
New Delhi

It was very interesting to read Mr. Roger A. Hart's article on 'Climbing the participation ladder' (***First Call for Children***, April-June 1992, p. 4) ... In my opinion, the last step of the participation ladder will never be reached. Though there are many good ideas by children, they are hardly carried out ... This is quite regrettable because children ... should have the opportunity to participate in creating the world they will live in in the future.

Nikolaus-Thomas Hiebaum
10th form student
Austria

NEWS BRIEFS

READY FOR RESEARCH: In Botswana, 250 schoolchildren played an important role in a government environmental sanitation pilot project, carrying out baseline surveys in 6,000 households to document water and sanitation coverage. The Botswana Government initiated the project to increase sanitation coverage, providing ventilated improved pit latrines with the assistance of UN Volunteers.

UNICEF/HQ/GRAY

CHILD LABOUR ON RISE: The *World Labour Report 1992* says that 20 per cent of children in Africa and 18 per cent of children in Latin America between the ages of 11 and 14 years old are economically active. According to the report, produced by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), child labour is increasing not just in absolute terms but also as a proportion of the world's children affected, and is common in the industrialized as well as the developing world. Although children must be at least 14 years old to work in most countries, agriculture and the informal sector, the prime areas of child labour, are generally excluded from such restrictions. The report stresses the need for well enforced legislation to eliminate child labour; in Hong Kong, for example, rigorous inspection and enforcement have reduced child labour to minimal levels. Ratification of the ILO Minimum Age Convention is expected to offer children more protection.

UK PUBLICATION ON CHILDREN: *Children Now*, subtitled 'A Review of 1991', is an interesting look at the situation of children in the United Kingdom. Published by the UK Committee for UNICEF, the Children's Society and the National Children's Bureau, the booklet covers events, activities, policy decisions and reports during the year on no fewer than 28 areas, presented in an accessible chronological format.

DID YOU KNOW...?

— That Italian State Television will carry a news programme for young people on its third channel from October 1992 during the school year. The news will be prepared and presented by young people themselves, with technical assistance from two adult journalists...

— That the UNICEF Executive Board adopted a resolution at its annual meeting in June, inviting "all States to observe each year, on 20 November or on a day they consider appropriate, Universal Children's Day, with special emphasis on the promotion of the Convention."...

— That Arone Raymond Meeks of Australia won First Prize in the prestigious UNICEF-Ezra Jack Keats International Award competition for excellence in children's book illustrations. R. Ashish Bagchi from India and Firouzeh Gol Mohammadi from Iran, the two other finalists, received bronze medals...

— That Mexico City's Police Department supports children's rights by distributing to children a brochure 'We Have Our Rights', produced by Mexico's National Human Rights Commission. The brochure tells children and their families the names of organizations that can help them if they feel their rights are being violated...

— That the Government of Thailand has published a booklet, *Thailand's Children and the Environment*, describing the state of the environment in Thailand and programmes that are solving the problems. In one, a campaign called 'Magic Eyes', a pair of eyes painted on buses, litter bins, schoolbags and T-shirts watches how people dispose of waste, encouraging children to be active in preventing littering...

— That a Canadian study has estimated that the cost to Canadian society of the 137,000 young people from the class of 1989 who left school before graduating would be roughly CAN$4 billion over their working lifetimes. According to Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux, Canada's Minister of State for Youth, Fitness and Amateur Sport, "The study indicates that education has a higher rate of return than almost any other alternative investment, both for young people and society."

QUOTABLE: "Being an Indian means being able to understand and live with this world in a very special way ... It means saying the land is an old friend and an old friend your father knew, your people have always known..."

—Richard Nerysoo, Inuit, quoted in *The Gaia Atlas of First Peoples*, by Julian Burger with campaigning groups and native peoples worldwide. Anchor Books Doubleday, New York, 1990. (*Please also see the article on page 7 about the Year of Indigenous People in 1993.*)

Donating meals for peace

For over 12 years now, members of the lay Buddhist organization, Rissho Kosei-Kai, have been missing three meals a month. They go hungry so those in need can benefit.

The money from the Donate One Meal Campaign goes to the Rissho Kosei-Kai Fund for Peace. Among the programmes the Fund supports are schools for children in the slums of Bangkok, afforestation in Mali and the construction of a vocational centre for blind Palestinians in the Gaza strip.

Founded in 1938 by the Rev. Nikkyo Niwano, Rissho Kosei-Kai counts 6.5 million members with 239 branches in Japan and six in other countries. Since the International Year of the Child in 1979, the organization has collaborated with UNICEF, in such efforts as Peace Education in Lebanon and emergency assistance to African countries receiving support. Fund for Peace contributions to UNICEF total approximately US$54 million.

COURTESY RISSHO KOSEI-KAI

During the Persian Gulf War, members of Rissho Kosei-Kai's youth groups in Japan raised approximately US$3 million for the UNICEF/Gulf War Emergency Relief Assistance Fund.

"From the Buddhist perspective, assisting children is investing in future resources," says the Rev. Katsuji Suzuki, Director of the Rissho Kosei-Kai Buddhist Center of New York, which recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of its establishment.

The Fund also supports UN initiatives, including disarmament campaigns, the Repatriation Programme for Laotian Refugees (UN High Commissioner for Refugees), and the establishment of a UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Kathmandu, Nepal.

—June Kunugi, Division of Public Affairs, UNICEF New York.

Volunteers essential in card success

In 1991, the worldwide sale of UNICEF greeting cards and products raised US$64 million for general resources. The special sales and marketing roles that National Committees play in this effort are often strongly supported by volunteers.

In the Netherlands, for example, two thirds of the sales of UNICEF cards and products are generated by volunteers working with the Netherlands Committee for UNICEF. Aware of this crucial support as the busiest campaign period for cards and products approaches, the Committee surveyed volunteers and customers to learn which factors they felt influenced card sales.

Interpersonal relations were identified in the survey as one of the determining factors in customers' decisions to buy UNICEF cards. Volunteers' success in sales is linked to their ability to transmit their own very high motivation to prospective customers.

In their direct, personal contacts, volunteers can engage customers in conversation and provide information on UNICEF activities and achievements. This in turn can lead to increased sales.

Survey responses also mentioned the quality and tasteful assortment of the collection as factors influencing consumers to choose UNICEF products.

—Michiel van Straten, Sales Coordinator in the Netherlands Committee for UNICEF, with Francesca Toso, Information Officer, GCO, Geneva. For complete survey results and comments, contact Michiel van Straten, at the Netherlands Committee for UNICEF, P.O. Box 30603, 2500 GP Den Haag, Netherlands, tel. 70-333-9358.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

October		
7-9	Montreal	Conference: 'Infant and Child Mortality in the Past' (International Union for the Scientific Study of Population)
16	global	'World Food Day' 'Trees for Life'
24	global	UN Day
23-28	Atlanta	1st North American Regional Conference of Rehabilitation International (Canadian Rehabilitation Council and US Council for International Rehabilitation)
26-27	Amsterdam	Ministerial Conference on Malaria (WHO)
26-31	Florence	Meeting of Mayors, Urban Planners and Policy Makers on Urban Children in Difficult Circumstances
November		
19-21	Vatican City	International Conference on Disabled Persons in Society (Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers)
20	global	3rd Anniversary of Adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
25-27	Dakar	International Conference on Assistance to African Children (OAU)
December		
1	global	World AIDS Day — 'AIDS: a Community Commitment'
5	global	International Volunteer Day
5-11	Rome	International Conference on Nutrition (WHO/FAO)
10	global	Human Rights Day
11	global	UNICEF Day
13	global	International Children's Day of Broadcasting
15	Mexico City (tentative)	Launch of *The State of World's Children 1993* report
1993	global	International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Please let ***First Call for Children*** know about your events and meetings by sending notices four months prior to the event to Yvonne Lester, ***First Call for Children***, 3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017 or fax: (212) 326-7768.

NGO Action for Children

Bringing the Convention's Power to Bear

On 20 November 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

Defining children as human beings with rights rather than merely as helpless victims, this landmark document has dramatically changed the international landscape.

Since its adoption, 122 countries have ratified the Convention, and many countries have implemented their commitment with new legislation, multisectoral involvement and programmes protecting the rights of the child.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, comprising 10 internationally recognized experts, elected by States parties to the Convention, has begun its work of monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

But major problems exist and violations in some countries continue unabated. With its widespread and diverse activities, the enormous world community of international and national NGOs and over 100,000 grass-roots organizations has an unprecedented opportunity and responsibility to effect real change. Serving as advocates for children's rights and bridging the gap between local communities and governments, the NGO community must take the initiative to expose violations as they occur, to raise public awareness and change attitudes, and to pressure governments to close the gap between word and deed.

— Gordon Klopf, Working Group, ***NGO Action for Children.***

An NGO fights for children's human rights

By Sara Ann Friedman

A grenade thrown through the front door of a house killed four children, ages 8 months to 6 years. According to witnesses, the grenade was thrown by government soldiers searching for the children's father, who was suspected of supporting insurgent attacks.

A 15-year-old boy was arrested by the police for walking in an anti-government demonstration. An independent medical examination confirmed injuries consistent with the boy's claim that he was tortured in custody — beaten and kicked, and strangled to the point of losing consciousness.

A one-year-old girl and her pregnant mother were found dead, their throats slit while the family was returning to their village after they had fled from ongoing border violence to a neighbouring country. Witnesses saw the family being intercepted by the national guard shortly before their bodies were found.

Three youths were kidnapped from a farm by armed, hooded men and subsequently disappeared. According to a military police report, the abductors were police officers who raided the farm looking for youths suspected of theft and drug-peddling. Several days later, the vehicle in which they were taken was found burned and with blood-stained seats.

These are four of the 14 special cases from around the world highlighted by Amnesty International during its *AI Week: Children and Young People,* 19-26 October 1992. During the Week, members from 1,200 chapters worldwide write letters, file petitions, lobby governments, plan events and bring to public attention the violation of children's human rights by government officials. The children have been killed, tortured in custody, falsely arrested, imprisoned or have disappeared, while the officials in question have not been brought to justice, and in many cases have not even been investigated.

These cases are emblematic of the many thousands that occur daily without public awareness. They also reflect an increase in government-sanctioned violence against children often "just because they are in the way," according to Jack Rendler, National Campaign Director, Amnesty International, USA. These situations include:

This 12-year-old boy is being arrested on suspicion of theft.

— The disappearance and murder of children and young people in areas of armed opposition in order to intimidate the local population. A Latin American army captain testified in a senate hearing that he felt obliged to kill a 2-year-old boy in a village held by insurrectional forces because even "children can be contaminated by ideas of communism."

— Children picked up because of petty crimes and tortured in custody even in countries with strong national laws protecting them.

— The intentional or 'accidental' murder or imprisonment of children whose parents are believed to be subversive.

— Street children harassed, tortured and killed because they are a threat to business and a "pain in the neck."

— The disappearance of 12- to 14-year-old boys who are kidnapped and forced into military service.

Although redressing the violations of children's human rights has been a part of AI's work since the early 1960s, the emphasis on children has increased since 1988. This followed worldwide publicity surrounding the case of a 32-year-old Burmese woman who had been in prison for 30 years. She was taken into custody as a two-year-old child when her mother was arrested because of her subversive beliefs. Since then, protecting the human rights of children forms one third of AI's annual activity and constitutes its only ongoing campaign.

The AI Week in October is a period of heightened activity in which special efforts are made by local chapters to focus on 14 special cases, engaging communities to pressure civic and political leaders to bring justice to children whose human rights have been violated.

Sara Ann Friedman is Editor of ***NGO Action for Children.***

To protect the child in prison

By Mercedes Roman

By showing a picture of starving Pedro Huaman, a 14-year-old boy from Latin America, we can affect emotions, raise sympathy and inspire generosity. In fact this is an effective way of raising funds for many children's agencies.

However, if we show a picture of Pedro Huaman in prison, or if we speak about all the children like him who broke the law in order to survive, the responses are far less sympathetic or generous.

The issue of children in conflict with the law is not popular among donors. Many of them accept the traditional view that children who have broken the law are 'delinquent' and deserve to be punished as if they were adults. Justice administration systems worldwide have reflected this view, as children are tried as adults, incarcerated with adults in inhuman conditions, frequently without trial or defence, neglected, abused, tortured, and sometimes murdered while in prison. Those detained in a juvenile 'correctional' institution are often exploited by corrupt prison officials. Little by little, however, a juvenile justice system is evolving. Responding to pressure from international and national NGOs, governments and institutions are beginning to respect and protect children's rights.

Defense for Children International (DCI) has made the issue of children in conflict with the law a top priority since 1982, when the international NGO conducted a worldwide survey about children in prison with adults. From that time the organization's goal has been to create awareness of this situation and change attitudes towards children in conflict with the law. Our work has taken place on the international level, helping to establish a legal framework to protect children's rights, and on the national level through a variety of actions — establishing programmes that defend children, lobbying and educating authorities about children's rights, promoting new legislation and denouncing abuses.

Legal framework

Four key documents provide the legal framework to safeguard the rights of the child in conflict with the law: the **UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice** (the 'Beijing Rules') adopted in 1985; **The UN** ('Riyadh') **Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency** adopted in 1990; **The UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty** adopted in 1990; and the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** (especially articles 38 and 40). In the belief that a legal framework is a necessary step in defending the special rights of children accused or convicted of a 'crime', DCI has been an active participant in drafting, disseminating or strengthening these documents.

Yet, DCI international jurist, Dan O'Donnell, who has worked extensively on this issue, has warned that NGOs should not look to legal instruments as the only answer. "International standards," he said, "change nothing by themselves. They are instruments which can be used by those who seek change and are willing to work for it."

National and local enforcement

It is at the national and local levels that we can see whether the attitudes have changed, and whether the treaties and standards are being enforced. It is also at

continued on page 15

A DEFENSE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Death in Jail

The following is the story of 15-year-old Remy Barrios, one of two Bolivian youths who died under suspicious circumstances in 1987 in the adult 'rehabilitation' centre, Granja de Chimore, in Bolivia. The investigation conducted by Defense for Children International (DCI) revealed evidence of murder in both cases. According to interviews with former residents of the same centre, minors are held in the facility, without access to medical care, and are subject to severe physical abuse.

Remy Barrios, at age 12, cleaned cars and gave the money to his mother. He also was already drinking and taking drugs. At 15, he was arrested in Cochabamba on suspicion of breaking into a building, and was taken to prison, where he was offered his freedom in exchange for a 'fine' (approximately US$50). When neither he nor his family could pay the fine, he was transferred to Granja de Chimore, an adult detention centre. His mother asked DCI for help, which began taking legal steps to free him. (Both the charge of 'suspicion' and the detention of a minor in an adult facility were illegal actions.)

When the DCI representative arrived at the centre with the release order, he was told that Remy had died five hours

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PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

One picture or a thousand words

One picture of a victimized child may be worth 1,000 words in terms of its dramatic effect. But it may also violate that child's rights. In the April-June 1992 issue of ***NGO Action for Children****, the photo of an unnamed child prostitute in Thailand accompanied an article entitled 'For sale: Children's bodies and souls'. The relative value or disservice of drawing attention to a particular child in the interest of publicizing the broader issue of children in especially difficult circumstances is a question of some discussion among NGOs.*

The following article expresses one point of view. What is your opinion on this and other subjects of interest to the NGO community?

By Miriam Lyons

Publicizing the plight of children in difficult circumstances often focuses attention on an individual child when a videotape or photograph puts a face and sometimes a name on the victim. It cannot be disputed that a moving or shocking story will attract far more attention, and even support, than an impersonal, faceless article. Such attention can generate political pressure, monetary support and volunteer efforts aimed at correcting a socially pervasive problem. But achieving these goals can never justify abusing the rights of an individual child.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child guarantees every child the right to privacy (article 16) and the right to recovery and reintegration in an environment that fosters self-respect and dignity (article 39). In our efforts to raise awareness of children's rights issues, conscious judgements must be made to ensure that the rights of the individual children are protected.

Children can be affected in numerous ways by public disclosure of their identity. Printed materials and videotapes provide a permanent record that may reappear at any time in a child's life. Any child singled out as the 'personification' of a problem can suffer from guilt or humiliation. If a child chooses to publicize his or her situation to help others, that child should make that choice as an informed and involved participant.

The "best interests of the child" can be preserved without abandoning publicity based on individual children. But the identity of the child does not need to be disclosed nor does she or he need to be recognizable. Organizations and agencies can protect children by developing a policy that clearly defines what information can be used in their own publications and what will be made available to the media. Such a policy will not only protect children's rights but, by example, educate and encourage others to do the same.

Miriam Lyons is the Children's Rights Project Coordinator of the Association Francois-Xavier Bagnoud.

RUDOLPH

Over 200 homeless children find an oasis at this playground programme each week in New York City *(photo left)*. The Citizens Committee for Children of New York, one of the participating organizations, advocates on behalf of poor children. Above, a child in a dilapidated city-owned apartment.

Child poverty rate in USA is up

The child poverty rate in the United States has increased substantially between 1980 and 1990, the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) has reported. The number of poor children has grown by 1.1 million to a total of 11.2 million, an increase of 11 per cent since 1989 and of almost 19 per cent since 1970.

"These findings confirm that child poverty is not just a problem for ... an isolated underclass," said Marian Wright Edelman, CDF President. "It is an American problem, leaving cold, hungry, sick, under-educated and hopeless children all across our nation."

According to the CDF report, the economic growth of the 1980s in the United States did little to benefit children. Per capita income increased in 48 of 50 states during the 1980s, but the number of children in poverty rose by 33 per cent. (The US Census Bureau has defined the poverty level for a family of three as annual income below US$10,000 and below US$12,675 for a family of four.)

The principal causes of the greater poverty according to CDF are declining wages, government budget cuts for social programmes and the increase in families headed by mothers.

Constrained by the absence of another income, the women and their children also suffer from lax enforcement of child support obligations and the historically lower wages paid women.

The report also refutes several misconceptions about child poverty. For example, says Edelman, "Americans tend to believe that our nation's poor children are overwhelmingly urban and minority." Yet only one in 10 poor children fits the stereotype of a child who is black, urban and living with a single mother on welfare.

The report reveals that, in fact, poor families receive much more income from work than from welfare. And more poor children are white (5.9 million) than black (3.7 million).

NETWORKS

In October 1991, the French Government and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed an agreement establishing INFOYOUTH, a new global network for the exchange of information and research on all matters dealing with youth worldwide.

The agreement commits the French Government to provide office space, equipment, staff and documentation services.

INFOYOUTH is designed to make the needs and problems of youth more widely known, particularly in developing countries.

The network will serve as a clearing house by receiving information from regional networks and redisseminating it.

For more information contact: UNESCOpresse, UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy 75700, Paris, France. Tel: (33 1) 45681743; fax: (33 1) 47347766.

International Children's Network for Peace

Kids Meeting Kids, a youth-run NGO with members in 140 countries, is organizing an International Children's Network for Peace and Children's Rights (ICNPCR). Operating since February 1992, this network of worldwide youth organizations will link young people at local, national and international levels to work towards the goals of ending violence and ratifying or implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Network will organize workshops, offer petitions that can be adapted to specific needs, and develop a computer exchange to report violence against children. The Network is open to all children, young people and youth organizations from all countries.

Please contact: ICNPCR, Kids Meeting Kids, 380 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10025, USA. Tel: (212)662-2327.

Charlotte's story

This 20-minute video tells the moving story of a Pacific Island mother who came to terms with her son's illness and eventual death from AIDS. It is a message to everyone, especially parents who may have to deal with this kind of tragedy.

The video is co-produced by the Pacific Islands AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention Programme, the South Pacific Commission (SPC)/Pacific Women's Resource Bureau and the Video Unit of the SPC Regional Media Centre.

For further information contact: Steven Vete, Health Information Officer, Pacific Islands AIDS and STD Prevention Project, South Pacific Commission, B.P. D5, Noumea, New Caledonia.

Bringing child rights to rural Nepal

In 1991 the Non-formal Education Service Centre (NFESC) in Nepal launched a Child Rights Awareness programme in several village development committees in the Makwanpur district.

Groups in each committee were trained on various aspects of the issues including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Discussion workshops helped local politicians, teachers and women's groups to become aware of the issues, and a local school programme was organized to educate school children about their rights.

The first of its kind, the UNICEF-funded programme was of immense importance to women who also learned about their legal rights. According to NFESC officials, the programme has been a success but needs serious follow-up if it is not to "fade away with time."

NGO Action for Children

Editor: Sara Ann Friedman
Geneva correspondent: Joanna Koch
Working Group: Gordon Klopf (OMEP), chair; Yvonne Asamoah (IASSW); Charlotte Brody (ACEI); Rita Cooper (OMEP); Amelia Dozzi (SO); Nancy Dubrow (WFMH); Rosalind Harris (ISS); Kate Katzki (ICSW); Joanna Koch (LLLI); Paul McCleary (CCF); Roberta Ross (ICJW); Bruce Yeager (PLAN).
NGO Action for Children is produced by the NGO Committee on UNICEF. The opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect those of UNICEF.

NGO Action for Children

A childhood friend helps those imprisoned

By Sara Ann Friedman

How does a small grass-roots NGO in northeast India, with a staff of two, win the release of thousands of Indian children from illegal trial and detention (sometimes receiving life sentences) in adult courts and prisons?

By using its energy in advocacy and collaboration with other groups and individuals — including dozens of professional volunteers, social organizations, the media, the public and the courts — to pressure and instruct the Government to enforce its own laws. It is illegal in India for boys under 16 and girls under 18 to be tried or detained in the adult criminal system.

In 1984, Sanat Kumar Sinha was a young social worker, assisting slum dwellers in Bombay. He read a paper by the UN Human Rights Commission describing the deplorable condition of children held in adult jails throughout India. Worst of all, according to the report, were the conditions in the northeastern state of Bihar, Sinha's birthplace and infamous for its caste violence and corruption.

Returning to Bihar, Sinha and a colleague investigated the report and founded an NGO called **Bal Sakha (Childhood Friend)**. For three years they looked at jails and remand homes where runaway, abandoned and delinquent children were detained, pending trial or the disposition of their cases. Conditions in the homes, they found, were even worse than depicted in the report — with inadequate food, unsafe drinking water, children who were ill-clothed, neglected and beaten by police and institution authorities, and one young girl with "worms crawling around an open wound on her leg." According to Sinha, facts were gathered about the deplorable conditions and misappropriation of funds and given to the media to publicize and to lawyers to spur them to try the cases.

"Our strategy was to lie low. If we had worked openly," he said, "we would have been denied access by the authorities to the homes where we provided direct services."

In 1988, **Childhood Friend** became more confrontational, expanding its efforts throughout Bihar and more recently throughout India. The NGO has won release for more than 1,000 children, and an increase in government allocation of funds from Rs. 150 to Rs. 270 (from aproximately US$5 to US$10) per month per child for food. Widening its activities and working with a budget increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 200,000 (US$360 to US$7,140), the NGO now runs an open centre for street children, counsels parents, finds sponsors and arranges vocational training for released children, produces street theatre to make school children aware of the plight of other children, organizes workshops and seminars, and disseminates information on the rights of the child to concerned authorities and the public.

"We have put pressure on the Government to do its job," said Sinha. District authorities, such as the police, health officials and magistrates, must ensure that the law is being enforced, that the money is used to feed and clothe the children, and that the doctor — whose salary has been increased — actually shows up.

But success has not been without cost. "Some government officials are displeased with what we are doing," said Sinha. They keep us from getting international funds and from participating in government-run seminars and workshops. They have ordered the CID (Criminal Investigations Department) to look into our activities. But a judge told them to be quiet and instead instructed that the CID be investigated."

Despite such strong evidence of increasing effectiveness, Sinha is still not satisfied. "We have only reached 20 per cent of the children in one state. There are 80 per cent we haven't even touched."

*This article is based on an interview with Sanat Kumar Sinha, coordinator of **Bal Sakha** and recipient of a Ford Foundation Advocacy Fellowship in Washington, D.C., attached to the Children's Defense Fund. For more information contact: Bal Sakha, Road No. 12, House No. 90, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna, Bihar, India — 800-001. Tel: (0612) 227871.*

Death in jail

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earlier. The death certificate noted nothing suspicious; among the unsubstantiated causes of death given were spending the night on a cold cement floor, epileptic convulsions and asphyxiation from chewing coca leaves.

Examination of the body by a trained nurse who worked with *Amanecer*, a Bolivian programme for street children, showed that the youth had been mistreated and had been involved in cocaine production while in the centre. There was a purple mark across his nose from a sharp blow, green stains on the bottom of his feet identical to those caused by stepping on coca leaves to mash them, burns on his feet similar to those from the acid used to break down the chemicals in coca leaves, and fragments of coca leaves in his teeth. (Providing coca leaves or alcohol to relieve the pain caused by stepping on the leaves in a tank of acid is a well-known, common practice.) The material from Remy's feet was sent to the U.S., where it was analysed and the conclusions verified.

The fact that Remy and other internees were involved in cocaine production was confirmed by numerous interviews DCI held with former residents who testified they saw or participated in cocaine production at the centre. This evidence raised a further fundamental question: how could Remy and others be involved in cocaine production without the knowledge and instruction of at least some of the officials of the centre and of police and security forces?

One young resident, when asked whether the centre had helped him, answered: "How can we defeat our drug addiction when those in charge continue to give us drugs?"

Protection in prison

continued from page 13

these levels that networking among NGOs and institutions is a necessary condition to overcoming unjust situations and reaching common goals. DCI has been working at these levels in many parts of the world to defend the rights of children in conflict with the law, most intensely in Latin America where we implemented a joint series of seminars with the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD). Nearly 200 judges, lawyers and correctional officials from all Latin American countries attended the regional meetings which were then followed up at the national level.

While working on this issue for the past 10 years, we have developed some fundamental approaches to dealing with the plight of children in conflict with the law that we would like to suggest to all NGOs who serve as child advocates.

— Society, its institutions and government officials, must change their attitude towards children in conflict with the law. It must be understood that in the vast majority of cases, these children are victims of social injustice and poverty. When children respond to their conditions by stealing or committing other 'illegal' acts, they must not be called 'delinquent' or treated as common criminals. Until they become adults, they are not fully responsible for their actions.

— The acts that put these children in conflict with the law must be seen as socially rooted problems, not as criminal acts.

— Children must not be processed by the adult criminal system either for trial or detention. Separate juvenile systems should be adopted where none exist; where they do exist, children's special rights must be safeguarded.

— Prevention must replace punishment as a goal of the juvenile justice system and more government resources must be directed towards this end. The 'Riyadh Guidelines' serve this purpose.

— Rehabilitation and prevention programmmes must include the participation of family and community.

— Institutionalization must be the last recourse. When it occurs, it must be for a short period of time. Its aim should be rehabilitation and not punishment. The **UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty** should be a guide for the treatment of children who face criminal institutionalization.

— Above all, children in conflict with the law have rights that need to be respected. These rights should be clearly reflected in national law and its enforcement.

Mercedes Roman is the representative of Defense for Children International at the United Nations in New York.

PUBLICATIONS

TOMORROW BELONGS TO THE CHILDREN

"The World is sick: it seems to have skin cancer, because its forests are being burned. It's suffering from lung disease because the air is polluted ... It has a high fever caused by the greenhouse effect. It suffers from a blood disease — contamination of its waters. All these diseases damage our planet..."

— Claudio Timm, 14, Brazil

The above is an excerpt from the new book of colourful artwork and essays called *Tomorrow Belongs to the Children: Contribution to Earth Summit '92*, created by children from 26 countries who call on world leaders to work together for a harmonious and sustainable future. The book was produced by the Bahá'i International Community, with support from UNICEF, in preparation for the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

From *Tomorrow Belongs to the Children.*

In preparation for the Earth Summit, the Bahá'i International Community launched a worldwide children's art and writing contest. Out of several thousand entries, the 80 works in the book were selected by staff members of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and representatives of Brasilia's artistic and educational communities.

For information about distribution of the book, contact UNICEF Brazil, Edificio Seguradoras, 13 andar, Setor Bancairo SU1, 70.072 Brasilia, DF. Tel: 55 61 224 7145; fax: 55 61 224 5035.

TEACHING AND LEARNING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, A MANUAL FOR THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

Produced by the UN Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), this 95-page booklet provides social work students, teachers and practitioners with an understanding and awareness of human rights issues and concerns for social justice. In the belief that concern for human rights must be manifested by social workers at all levels and at all times, the handbook includes comprehensive information on the relationship between human rights and social work, basic international human rights instruments, teaching and reference guides, and case vignettes.

Copies are available from the Centre for Human Rights, United Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

New juvenile court system in China

Excerpted from an article in the **China Daily** *by staff reporter, Chang Hong.*

In only six years, a new court system for juveniles has taken root and is flourishing throughout China. From a single juvenile court in Shanghai in 1986, there are now 1,621 courts across the country that deal exclusively with adolescent offenders.

Stressing education and rehabilitation, and using judges as guiding hands rather than punishing fists, the new court system has helped young delinquents start new lives and has reduced adolescent crime overall, says Lin Zhun, vice-president of the Supreme People's Court. It also ensures that young offenders get fair trials and receive relatively lenient punishment.

In China, young people under 25 are responsible for three quarters of the 400,000 criminal cases heard in the courts each year. About 10 per cent of these involve minors, aged 14 to 18. Young defendants can now remain seated while answering judicial questions, instead of standing, as in adult courts. They are permitted to talk with their guardians or attorneys during court recess, another privilege not permitted adult defendants.

The new courts are also undertaking an experiment in protecting the rights of adolescents, a new concept in China. In this new system judges have a much more cooperative role. "They act like a teacher, a doctor and a father," said Lin. They visit young offenders in prison and help other segments of society — the police, family and school of the young offender — to draw up a re-education plan for minors on probation. "This participation by various sectors in the re-education process of the adolescent offender is one of the outstanding features of the new system," Lin added.

RESOURCES

UNICEF Publications
Available from:
UNICEF H-9F
3 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017,
USA.
Available in English unless otherwise noted.

1992 UNICEF Annual Report. Also in French, Spanish and other languages.

Saving Our Earth by Nurturing Our Children. Address by James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janiero, Brazil, 8 June 1992.

A New World for Children — Off to a Fair Start. Excerpts from address by James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, to the UNICEF Executive Board, New York, 15 June 1992.

The following publications are available from the UNICEF International Child Development Centre, Spedale degli Innocenti, Piazza SS Annunziata 12, 50122 Florence, Italy:

Women, Work and Child Care — a Summary Report of the Innocenti Global Seminar, Casablanca, Morocco, 21–31 October 1991, by J. R. Himes, C. Landers and J. Leslie. US$10.

Innocenti Occasional Papers
Children in the Welfare State: Current Problems and Prospects in Sweden, by S.E. Olsson and R. Spant. December 1991. US$6.

Eradicating Child Malnutrition: Thailand's Health, Nutrition and Poverty Alleviation Policy in the 1980s, by T. Kiranandana and K. Tontisirin. January 1992. US$6.

Improving Nutrition in Tanzania in the 1980s: The Iringa Experience, by O. Yambi and R. Mlolwa. March 1992. US$6.

Growth, Income Distribution and Household Welfare in the Industrialized Countries Since the First Oil Shock, by A. Boltho. April 1992. US$6.

Other Publications
Breaking the Cycle of Poverty — The BRAC Strategy (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), by C.H. Lovell. Available from Kumarian Press Inc., 630 Oakwood Avenue, Suite 119, West Hartford, CT 06110-1529, USA. Clothcover US$29, paperback US$21.95, plus US$3 shipping (US$0.75 for each additional book shipped).

A Sustainable Development Curriculum Framework for World History and Cultures, by J.L. Brown, P. Gotsch, F. Cotterel, T. Crop, L.W. Murchio, S. Talis and M. Varley. Available from Global Learning, Inc., (SDCF), 1018 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, NJ 07083, USA. Special offer: US$20, plus US$3 shipping per book within USA — for other countries please indicate airmail or surface preference and cost will be advised.

UNICEF Videos
A number of audiovisual materials are available from UNICEF offices and National Committees. (Check with your local office for other titles.)

The Rights of the Child. 23 minutes. Video. Narrated by Sir Richard Attenborough, explains the survival, protection and development rights set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Also in French and Spanish. (No. 237)

The Orphan Generation. 42 minutes. Video. Community assistance to AIDS orphans in Uganda. Also in French, Spanish. (No. 263)

These Are Our Children. 10 minutes. Video. How AIDS orphans in Uganda are assisted by the community. In English only. (No. 265)

Baby-Friendly — The Fabella Experience. 12.07 minutes. Video. The Jose Fabella Hospital in Manila, Philippines, is an example of a baby-friendly hospital in action. Also in French and Spanish. (No. 271)

Images. 30 minutes. Video plus an activities booklet. Designed to help viewers look at reality behind images and to broaden perceptions. Training tool/classroom use, for 14 years and up. In English only. (No. 264)

Ujeli — A Child Bride in Nepal. 59 minutes. Video. Docudrama on the problems facing young girls married at an early age, in this case aged 10. Nepalese, with English subtitles. (No. 270)

The *UNICEF Video Film Radio Catalogue*, trilingual in English, French and Spanish, is available on request.

Resources *is compiled by Rhonwen Searle, Senior Information Assistant.*

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